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WT-Int. Crude - $12.73

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

MONDAY
Jan. 25, 1999
Vol. 50 No. 227
10 Pages 50¢
Home Of Chris Stahl

Clinton's trial at crossroads; GOP, Demos meet separately

WASHINGTON (AP) — With President Clinton's Senate impeachment trial at a crossroads, Republicans and Democrats met separately today to decide whether to seek a swift end to the proceedings without a partisan struggle over witnesses.

Democrats backed a proposal for final votes on the articles of impeachment on Friday, with no chance of witnesses. There was no immediate response from Republicans, whose closed-door meeting ran longer than the Democratic session.

The meetings came as House prosecutors held a private meeting of their own to draw up a list of witnesses they'd like to testify, Monica Lewinsky among them.

Ms. Lewinsky met with the prosecutors at a Washington hotel on Sunday, and her attorney said afterward she had provided no information not previously given Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr.

The Senate was scheduled to debate two rival motions beginning today — one sought by Democrats to dismiss the charges, the other sought by the House prosecutors to depose witnesses.

Democratic Leader Tom Daschle told reporters the alternative would scrap those two votes. He set out a schedule for final arguments and Senate deliberations that would culminate in a vote on the articles of impeachment themselves on Friday.

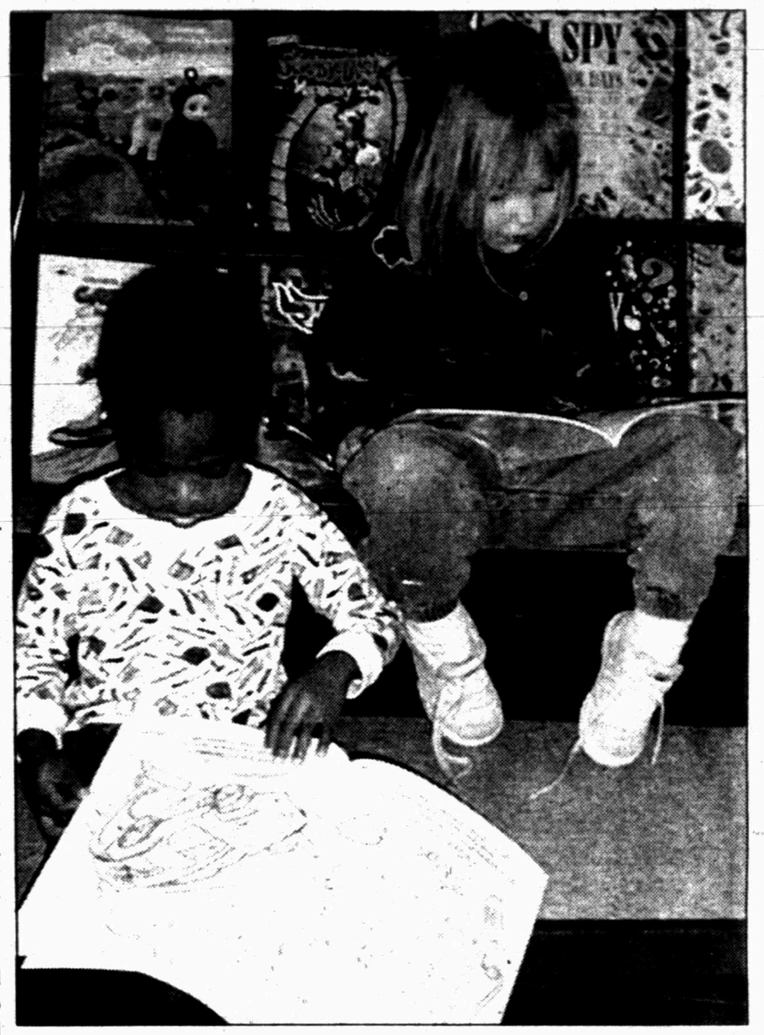
House prosecutors would be granted two hours later today to offer a formal rebuttal to the White House's defense arguments, and each side would have time for closing arguments on Tuesday. Then Wednesday and Thursday would be given to deliberations of the articles, with votes on Friday. Some Democrats also said they wanted provisions for censuring the president immediately after the articles of impeachment were voted on.

The genesis of the alternative wasn't completely clear. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., said he and GOP Sen. Slade Gorton had discussed the idea late last week. Separately, Democrats said they had handed it to Majority Leader Trent Lott late Saturday night.

One of the prosecutors, Rep. Asa Hutchinson, R-Ark., opposed the idea. "It is a step by step process that should not be ended before the time is right," he said.

Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., countered: "There's a feeling that if the House managers have their way we're never going to get a bipartisan conclusion." And that conclusion, he said, is what both parties are determined to achieve, especially given the ferocity of the partisanship that gripped the House during its portion of the impeachment drama.

The maneuvering came against the backdrop of a widely held belief that Clinton will win acquittal on the two articles of impeachment alleging perjury and obstruction of justice. A two-thirds vote would be required to convict and remove him from office.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR — Three-year-olds Cerise (top) and Jordan look over books offered at Snyder Head Start's scholastic book fair. The fair will be open from 8 a.m. until noon and 1-6 p.m. each day this week through Friday. It is open to the public. (SDN Staff Photo by Joyce May)

Jury selection begins in dragging death trial

JASPER (AP) — John William King, the first of three men accused in last summer's dragging death of a black man, went on trial today for capital murder.

King, 24, wore a bulletproof vest as he was escorted by deputies into the 110-year-old Jasper County Courthouse. He faces the death penalty if convicted of the June 7 slaying of James Byrd Jr., who was stripped, chained to a pickup truck and dragged until his head came off.

About 200 prospective jurors passed through newly acquired metal detectors at the courthouse and crammed into state District Judge Joe Bob Golden's courtroom. Some jurors were delayed by heavy fog in the area but Golden said he wanted to get under way.

"It's going to take a lot of patience on your part," Golden told jurors of the process to select 12 of them, plus two alternates, to serve on the panel.

In Texas, potential jurors in capital murder cases are interviewed one at a time. After general introductions, they began filling out questionnaires to help lawyers narrow the pool. The whole process is expected to take up to three weeks.

"When the trial starts, I think it will be worth watching," Jasper County District Attorney Guy James Gray said Sunday. "The jury selection process is very boring, very slow, not much to it."

He said about half of the 400 juror prospects, selected in a random computer search of county residents, were likely to attend today's session, since many had obtained exemptions for having young children, or as sole operators of businesses. Others may have moved or died.

Gray said many people have told him they were reluctant to serve because of the high media attention.

"People are afraid of you guys," he told reporters. "They're afraid of having their picture taken. They're afraid of being interviewed. And they're afraid of serving on a big case like this with a lot of attention.

"That's one of the things I'm going to talk about (today)," he added.

King, a onetime member of a racist prison gang and an avowed white supremacist, is the first of three men to be tried in the Byrd murder. The trials of Shawn Allen Berry, 23, and Lawrence Russell Brewer, 31, haven't yet been scheduled.

King denies killing Byrd, saying he stood by innocently as Berry committed the murder over a soured drug deal.

American warplanes attack sites in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — American warplanes, threatened by Iraqi artillery systems while patrolling the "no-fly" zone northern Iraq, attacked two surface-to-air missile sites in separate incidents Sunday.

It was a second day in a row that U.S. jets enforcing the flight-interdiction zone met resistance and fired back.

A U.S. F-15E Eagle fired a precision-guided missile and "suppressed" an Iraqi SA-3 surface-to-air missile site that threatened forces in the area, the military said.

The missile scored a direct hit, Operation Northern Watch said in a statement. Northern Watch operates out of the NATO base in Incirlik, Turkey to enforce the truce that ended the 1991 Persian Gulf War and bans Iraqi aircraft in the northern sector of the country.

The American fighter struck aircraft in the area reported they were illuminated by the Iraqi surface-to-air missile system, said Air Force Lt. Col. Dennis Linn, a spokesman at European Command headquarters in Germany.

A pilot whose plane is illuminated, or locked on by radar, assumes he is about to be fired upon.

Less than an hour after the first attack, a U.S. Marine EA-6B Prowler and two U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons fired high speed anti-radiation missiles after their aircraft were illuminated by Iraqi systems.

The damage to Iraqi forces in the second incident was being assessed.

All of the American aircraft returned safely to Incirlik.

On Saturday, American warplanes were threatened by Iraqi MiGs and anti-aircraft ground fire and responded with laser-guided bombs on two surface-to-air missile sites in southern Iraq.

Planes from the Navy aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, on station in the Persian Gulf, are patrolling that zone south of Baghdad.

Iraq has demanded that the United States and Britain end what Iraqi President Saddam Hussein calls their "illegal" patrols in the restricted zones set up over northern and southern Iraq to protect Iraqi Kurds and Shiite Muslims.

President Clinton has said the bans will be fully enforced because they are central to the U.S. strategy for containing Iraq's military.

Globetrotters here Tuesday

Tickets are still available for the Harlem Globetrotters' Tuesday night performance at Scurry County Coliseum.

Tickets may be purchased at Lawrence IGA, The Movie Stop and the Snyder Chamber of Commerce through 5 p.m. Tuesday. They will go on sale Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock at the coliseum

Tip-off for the event is set at 7 p.m.

Known as the most popular, most recognized and most revered basketball team in the world, the Globetrotters are performing for their 70th year.

For seven generations, the Globetrotters have brought smiles and laughter to families and fans by displaying their athletic ability, comedy routines and amazing trick shots.

Area residents are invited to be part of the fun-filled evening as the Globetrotters display their hoops skills against the New York Nationals.

Appearing with the team this year is Globie, the team's mascot.

Every show is new, so if you've seen them once, you have to see them again. If you've never seen them, they are a must.

The Globetrotters' two-hour show is full of high-tech special effects, a hip and fun musical score, expert showmen and non-stop fun and audience participation.

Globetrotter merchandise will also be available at the "World's Greatest Basketball Show."

In addition, players will be signing autographs for fans after the game, a chance for everyone to meet their favorite Globetrotter up close.

GLOBETROTTER SHOWMEN - Leading the antics for Tuesday's performance of the Harlem Globetrotters will be these three showmen. Shown from left are Matt "Showbiz" Jackson, "Sweet" Lou Dunbar and Paul "Showtime" Gaffney. The Globetrotters' performance begins at 7 p.m. in the Scurry County Coliseum. (Contributed Photo)

Jury selection begins Tuesday for civil trial

Jury selection begins Tuesday in a 132nd court suit stemming from a 1995 traffic accident on U.S. 180 west of Snyder.

Freddie Alaniz and his wife, Marie, and their minor children are seeking damages for injuries that Alaniz sustained July 19, 1995 when his motorcycle was in collision with a pickup owned by Arrow Construction Co. Inc. of Snyder.

Defendants are Hilario Morado Cabrera, driver of the pickup and an employee of Arrow Construction Co., also named as a defendant in the case.

Plaintiffs claim gross neligence in the case filed by Snyder attorney Isaac Castro of Snyder. Attorney for the defendants is Dick R. Holland of Midland.

Some 165 prospective jurors have been summoned to report at 9 a.m. Tuesday in District Judge Ernie Armstrong's court.

A justice of the peace jury for two cases will also be selected from the 165-member panel.

ASK US

Q—When will the actual work on the 37th Street widening project begin?

A—The bid process for the project is scheduled to begin in November and the work should begin 45 to 60 days after that, around the middle of January 2000.

FORECAST - ALMANAC

Snyder Temps: High Saturday, 63 degrees; low, 30; high Sunday, 39; low, 37; 7 a.m. Monday, 38; no precipitation; total for 1999, .21 of an inch.

Area Forecast: Tonight, partly cloudy. Low around 40. S-SE wind 10-20 mph, gusty. Tuesday, partly cloudy. High, lower-mid 60s. W-SW wind 15-25 mph, gusty, shifting to NW late.

Destinee Nacgele
Partly Cloudy

Sunset:
6:12 p.m.
Sunrise:
7:40 a.m.
Of 24 days in 1999, the sun has shone 24 days in Snyder.

TODAY'S THOUGHT

"Trifles make perfection, but perfection is no trifle."

Michelangelo

Golden Globe winners unpredictable as ever

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — There was something for everybody during the 56th Golden Globes awards, an unpredictable evening that set the stage for an unpredictable Oscar race.

When Jim Carrey wasn't making off-color quips, or Jack Nicholson wasn't remembering the Globe's less golden moments, Steven Spielberg was thanking U.S. fighting men for preserving democracy and ending the Holocaust.

It was the kind of freewheeling ceremony in which Christine Lahti could draw laughs by walking on stage with toilet paper stuck to her shoe, and Michael J. Fox and Gwenyth Paltrow could bring tears to the ballroom crowd with their emotional acceptance speeches.

"Saving Private Ryan" won best dramatic film and Spielberg was honored for directing the brutally realistic World War II combat story, while "Shakespeare in Love," "The Truman Show" and "Elizabeth" won major awards Sunday at the annual awards from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

The Globes, traditional Oscar predictors, did little to help handicap the Academy Awards race. It was between "Ryan" and "Shakespeare" before the Globes, and it's between them still, with perhaps a little more push for "The Truman Show" and its award-winning star Carrey, who barely hid his Oscar aspirations.

Carrey jokingly thanked the "Academy" for his Globe award, which actually was selected by entertainment journalists — not the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

"No, I'm sorry I was thinking of something else," said Carrey, named best actor in a dramatic movie, beating out a field that included the strong acting of Ian McKellen of "Gods and Monsters."

Carrey's co-star Ed Harris picked up a supporting actor trophy, setting the irreverent tone for much of the evening by putting a toothpick in his mouth and saying, "Oh, man, I just got through eating dinner."

McKellen's co-star Lynn Redgrave got a surprise supporting actress award as the gruff-but-loving maid in "Gods and Monsters" and Michael Caine of "Little Voice" was best actor in a musical or comedy motion picture.

"Oh, what a shock," Caine said. "My career must be slipping. This is the first time I've been available to pick up an award."

On a more serious note, Spielberg, whose film is a major contender for an Oscar, recalled "all the veterans that are out there that saved Western civilization and stopped the Holocaust in 1945."

Backstage, he said: "I hope the movie is a way at looking back... and saying thanks to all of our grandfathers and fathers."

"Shakespeare in Love" won best comedy or musical film and picked up awards for star Paltrow — best actress in a comedy — and for screenplay. Paltrow fought back tears and her voice choked as she thanked her parents and her ailing grandfather.

Cate Blanchette of "Elizabeth" won best dramatic actress for her role as the title character in second movie set during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Brazil's "Central Station" captured the foreign language film award.

In the television categories, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association voted ABC's "The Practice" as best television drama series, and Fox's "Ally McBeal" won as best television comedy series. Both are produced by David Kelley.

"Spin City" star Michael J. Fox, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, was a funny but poignant winner for TV comedy actor. He thanked his doctors, including one he said had opened up his brain. "We're so lucky to do what we do... and just take every day and enjoy it," Fox said.

The awards, broadcast from a hotel ballroom by NBC, were plagued by problems with sound cutting out and the picture freezing momentarily.

The Golden Globes are awarded for film and television in what can be a more colorful affair than the stodgier Academy Awards. Last year, Lahti was in the bathroom when she was announced as a winner for "Chicago Hope." This year she showed up as a presenter with toilet paper stuck to a shoe.

One award was announced before the ceremony: Nicholson was honored with the Cecil B. DeMille Award for his "outstanding contribution to the entertainment field."

In his speech, he reminisced about the bawdy antics of Joan Crawford and Rita Hayworth in bygone Golden Globe awards. "I like fun. What can I say?" Nicholson said.

Anthrax vaccinations are questioned

ILION, N.Y. (AP) — The families of two Marines are protesting the government's plans to vaccinate 2.4 million military personnel against anthrax, saying it could lead to long-term health problems for their sons.

The parents of Adam Cooper and Bradley Watson, friends who grew up together in this town east of Utica, say the military does not know enough about the vaccination and its side effects to require shots for all its personnel.

So far, about 166,000 people have received at least the first in a series of six vaccinations against the potentially fatal disease, according to Jim Turner, a spokesman for the Department of Defense.

Turner says the vaccine has been around for the last 25 to 30 years and is safe. "It's been thoroughly tested. It's FDA-approved," he told the Utica Observer-Dispatch in Monday's editions.

But the Coopers and Watsons believe the vaccine may not be entirely safe. Both families told the Observer-Dispatch they have spent many hours researching the effects of the vaccine and believe it may be related to what is popularly known as Gulf War syndrome, or the variety of illnesses suffered by veterans after the Persian Gulf war.

The families have contacted U.S. Rep. Sherwood Boehlert's office to protest the vaccination program and are scheduling a town meeting here next month to hear from former military personnel who have taken the vaccine and some who resigned to avoid it.

"I'm no revolutionary. I'm doing this because my son's life is at stake," Tim Watson said. "It's morally wrong. They are using our children as guinea pigs. We are not at war. ... This is something that could be delayed until further tests are done."

Because of the threat of anthrax being used as "germ warfare," the military announced in 1997 that it would vaccinate all of its active and reserve personnel by 2005.

Watson is concerned the anthrax vaccine given to soldiers in the Persian Gulf may have led to the problems many have reported experiencing in recent years, including lupus, fatigue, headaches, dizziness, cancer, infertility and birth defects.

There are no hard facts to substantiate any medical problems being linked to the anthrax vaccine or any other vaccine soldiers were given in the Persian Gulf.

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Non-native species take toll on ecosystem

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Scientists have long known that foreign plants and animals are damaging various parts of the U.S. ecosystem. They just didn't know it's costing the nation about $123 billion a year.

A study by David Pimentel, an ecologist at Cornell University, estimates that alien weeds such as purple loosestrife are costing Americans $35.5 billion annually, insects like fire ants are costing $20 billion more and disease-causing organisms are costing $6.5 billion.

The remaining economic costs are spread over causes ranging from rats and plant diseases to non-native fish.

"It doesn't take many troublemakers to cause tremendous damage," Pimentel told The Oregonian in today's editions.

Even animals as familiar as dogs and cats cause huge problems. The nation's 63 million domestic cats and 30 million feral cats are estimated to kill about 200 million birds each year — birds that would otherwise eat many insect pests.

At an estimated $30 per pest-eating bird, that amounts to $6 billion in damage by cats alone.

Dog bites send 800,000 people to emergency rooms annually, resulting in about $30 million in medical costs. Wild dogs running in packs in Florida, Texas and other states cause an estimated $10 million a year in livestock losses.

Gypsy moths, elm disease, fire ants and zebra mussels also are among other damaging organisms listed in the study.

The study confirmed what many Oregon ranchers, farmers and fishermen already feared.

In a state that stretches from ocean to desert, and relies on agriculture as its largest single industry, the threat from non-native plants and animals is serious.

The colorful loosestrife takes over native aquatic species in wetlands and along streams, removing hiding cover and food for birds and other animals.

Cheatgrass on rangelands accelerates the spread and frequency of wildfires. Bullfrogs are killing off native turtle species, and the green crabs pose a threat to clams, oysters and Dungeness crabs.

In addition to the economic costs, Pimentel said, nonindigenous species are responsible for more than 40 percent of the plants and animals that are on the nation's endangered or threatened list.

Yet Pimentel points out that 98 percent of the nation's food supply comes from introduced species such as wheat, rice, domestic cattle and poultry.

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97 CHEVY BLAZER LS white, tan cloth, 4X4, automatic, moon roof AM/FM/CD, power windows/locks/seats, 30,271 miles. $20,595

98 CHEVY BLAZER LS red, gray cloth, 2 WD, cruise, tilt, power windows/locks, 17,000 miles $20,595

96 HONDA PASSPORT red, 4 dr. gray cloth., automatic AM/FM/cass 47,406 miles $14,595

97 FORD F150 XLT white, ext. cab, tan cloth, automatic, AM/FM/cass, cruise, tilt, bedliner, 24,287 miles $18,595

88 CHEVY SILVERADO DOOLIE 1 TON maroon/silver, ext. cab, automatic, cruise, tilt, AM/FM/cass, like new $7,550

98 CHEVY SILVERADO Z71 EXT. CAB emerald green, tan leather buckets, AM/FM/cass/CD, cruise, tilt, automatic, side rails, 56,869 miles $20,595

96 CHEVY CHEYENNE EXT. CAB white, blue cloth, AM/FM/Cass, cruise, tilt, 66,568 miles $11,995

96 CHEVY SILVERADO EXT. CAB 1/2 TON white, tan leather buckets, AM/FM/cass, cruise, tilt, 77,011 miles $14,995

95 CHEVY SILVERADO EXT. CAB silver, 1/2 ton, gray cloth bucket seats, AM/FM/cass, cruise, tilt, 59,415 miles $15,995

90 CHEVY SILVERADO Style SS, maroon/gold, long bed, power windows/locks, AM/FM/cass, cruise, tilt, 111,629 miles $5,995

96 GMC JIMMY auto, cruise, tilt, AM/FM/cass,bucket seats $17,895

96 MERCURY COUGAR silver, automatic, power windows/locks, AM/FM/cass, cruise, tilt, 41,124 miles $7,995

98 OLDSMOBILE ACHIEVA SL - PROGRAM CAR 4 door, automatic, power windows/locks, cruise, tilt, AM/FM/cass, 31,148 miles $11,995

95 OLDSMOBILE ACHIEVA SL blue, 4 door, automatic, AM/FM/cass, cruise, tilt $5,995

93 CHEVY EURO maroon, 4 door, power locks, cruise, tilt 62,810 miles $6,995

95 CHEVY LUMINA pewter, 4 door, power windows/locks, cruise, tilt, AM/FM/CD 39,567 miles $10,795

95 GEO PRIZM automatic, AM/FM/cass, 39,929 miles $6,995

98 FORD MUSTANG white, AM/FM/cass/CD, power windows/locks, 5 speed, V-6, 4,050 miles $14,500

92 CHRYSLER LEBARON white, 4 door, automatic, cruise, tilt, AM/FM/cass 116,791 miles $4,000

90 CADALLIAC SEDAN DEVILLE gray/gray leather, cruise, tilt, AM/FM/cass, power windows,/locks/seats $3,750

94 MERCURY COUGAR blue-green, power windows/locks, automatic, AM/FM/cass, 62,838 miles $7,595

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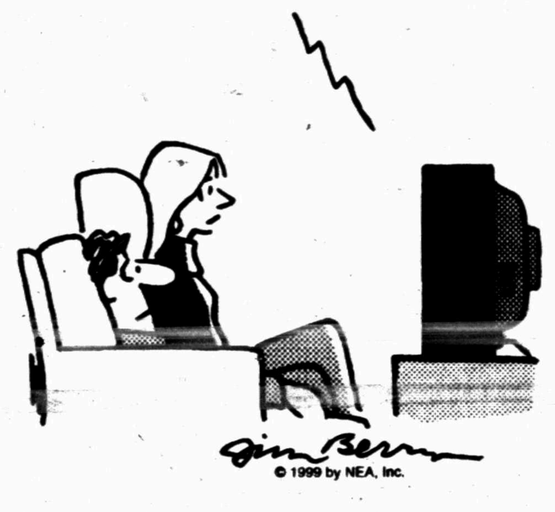

Oil Patch News

Scurry County

Apache Corp. will drill the No. 1 P.L. Fuller, a 5,600-foot wildcat located 18 miles northeast of Snyder. Location is in Section 649, Block 97, H&TC survey.

Garza County

HAT Oil and Gas will drill the No. 2 Crooked Stick in the Tobe field, four miles southwest of Justiceburg. Planned for a depth of 7,990 feet, location is in Section 30, Block 6, H&GN survey.

Primrose Operating will drill the No. 1WS-6 Exxon Fee in the Dorward field, four miles southeast of Justiceburg. Planned for a depth of 1,000 feet, drill site is in Section 116, Block 5, H&GN survey.

Primrose Operating will drill the No. 62S-G Exxon Fee in the Dorward field, four miles southeast of Justiceburg. Planned depth is 1,000 feet, and location is in Section 116, Block 5, H&GN survey.

THANKS!!

I would like to thank American State Bank for their continual support of my livestock endeavors at the Scurry County Jr. Livestock Show. Your support helps to make all my hard work worthwhile.

Thank you,
Hadley Hirt

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

Published each Sunday morning and each evening, except Saturday, by Snyder Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 College Ave., Snyder, Texas 79549.

Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Snyder, Texas, Publication Number USPS611-520.

POSTMASTER send change of address to P.O. Box 949, Snyder, Texas, 79550.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By carrier in Snyder, $9.00 per month.

By mail in Scurry and adjoining counties, one year $85.80 balance of Texas and out of state $113.85.

Roy McQueen, Publisher
Wade Warren, Managing Editor
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to use for republication all news dispatches in this newspaper and also local news published for republication of special dispatches.

Community Calendar

MONDAY

Al-Anon, Snyder Park Club; noon.

Scurry County Museum's hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Just For Today NA, closed meeting; Snyder Park Club; for information call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

Manic Depression (Bipolar) support group; Family Life Community Church, 904 26th Street; 7 p.m.

Scurry County AA, closed meeting; Park Club; for more information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Vueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

American Cancer Society; board room of Cogdell Memorial Hospital; 5 p.m.

Weight Watchers; Trinity United Methodist Church, 5200 Trinity Blvd.; 5 p.m.

Just For Today NA, closed meeting; for information, call 573-0949, 573-4238 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

ACBL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 7 p.m.

New Horizons 12 & 12, closed meeting; Park Club; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for information, call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

TOPS TX56, (take off pounds sensibly); weigh-in and meeting 5 to 6 p.m.; 2501 35th. For more information, call Peggy Vernon at 573-3122.

WEDNESDAY

Martha Ann Woman's Club Game Day and Luncheon; cost is $750 with serving to begin at 11-30, games of choice will be played afterward; reservations are needed by 5 p.m. Tuesday by calling 573-3427.

Just For Today NA, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Snyder Palette Club; Winston Field Airport meeting room; program, Myrtle Joiner—oils; hostess, Nettie Faye Gardner; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

LLL Club; fellowship hall of First Baptist Church; 9:30 a.m.

Al-Anon brown bag; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; noon to 1 p.m.

Horseshoe Pitching For Fun; houseshoe courts, located at the coliseum; everybody welcome, for further information, call 573-9762; 3 p.m.

Just For Today NA; Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

Deep Creek Cloggers lesson; American Legion; 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Scurry Charter Chapter ABWA; MAWC; 7 p.m.

New Horizons AA, closed meeting; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Nuestra Nueva Esperanza AA; Park Club; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

Free blood pressure clinics; Senior Citizens Center; 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Blood pressures will be taken at Cogdell Hospital Home Health Services, 1800 Cogdell Blvd., Suite B; 1-2 p.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 1:30 p.m.

Cornelius-Dodson House; open by appointment, call 573-9742.

Just For Today NA; Snyder Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 6 p.m.

Scurry County AA, closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 8 p.m.

Al-Anon; Park Club in Winston Park, 37th and Ave. M; for information, call 573-4203, 573-8626, 573-2101 or 573-0695; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

People Without Partners; Inadale Community Center; games of 42 and dominos; 6:30 p.m.

Just For Today NA, open meeting; Park Club; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

Scurry County AA, open meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-8626, 573-9458 or 574-1292; 10 a.m.

ABCL Open Pairs Duplicate Bridge; Snyder Country Club; 1:30 p.m.

Just For Today, closed meeting; Park Club in Winston Park; for information, call 573-0949 or 573-8018; 5 p.m.

Kansas is also known as the Sunflower State.

Date Book

Jan. 25, 1999

Today is the 25th day of 1999 and the 36th day of winter.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1858, Felix Mendelssohn composed his "Wedding March" for the marriage of Queen Victoria's daughter.

On this day in 1915, Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated the first transcontinental telephone line by placing a call from New York City to San Francisco.

On this day in 1969, Creedence Clearwater Revival released their album "Proud Mary."

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Robert Burns (1759-1796), poet; W. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965), writer; Virginia Woolf (1882-1941), writer; Eduard Shevardnadze (1928-), Georgian president, is 71; Dinah Manoff (1958-), actress, is 41.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1987, the New York Giants beat the Denver Broncos 39-20 in Super Bowl XXI.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom." — Somerset Maugham

TODAY'S MOON: Day after first quarter (Jan. 24).

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Teen helps nab 4 prison escapees

ANGOLA, La. (AP) — Roadblocks went up and a chase team equipped with thermal detectors and night-vision goggles began a search for four convicted killers who bolted from a Louisiana prison.

But it was the sharp eyes of 15-year-old Matt Tibbett who foiled the inmates' plans after spotting two of the men Sunday while out deer hunting alone.

The ill-fated escape — which left one inmate dead and the other three in custody — began at 2 p.m. CST when the men, armed with two smuggled guns, took a prison maintenance worker hostage and left the prison grounds in a truck.

The inmates made it through a gate at the 18,000-acre Louisiana State Penitentiary to a water tower, where they ditched the truck and tied up the maintenance supervisor with duct tape, Warden Burl Cain said. The foursome then fled on foot.

It took only minutes for the hostage to free himself and alert the nearest guard post. By then the inmates had about a half-hour head start, Cain said.

Law enforcement from surrounding areas immediately set up roadblocks. The prison's chase team, armed with night-vision goggles, thermal detectors and packs of dogs, launched a recovery effort for the four men, each serving a life sentence for murder.

Others monitored the Mississippi River, which borders the prison grounds to the east, while three helicopters searched from above.

About this time, 15-year-old Tibbett was deer hunting on his family's property, and noticed two men sitting on the ground about 50 yards away. Not knowing about the prison break, he kept walking.

A short while later, his brother-in-law, who had heard of the escape, met up with the teen. The pair alerted law enforcement officials and soon, bloodhounds were on the trail of inmates Roy McFall and Jerry Davis.

Davis later said when McFall saw the dogs, he turned to him and said, "I'm not going back to prison, they're about to catch us," according to Cain.

McFall, 40, then shot himself in the head, and later died at a hospital. He had been serving a life sentence for first-degree murder in the June 1983 stabbing of a Texas woman.

Protestants are moving toward affiliation, despite differences

ST. LOUIS (AP) — While Pope John Paul II brings together millions of Roman Catholics throughout the Americas, Protestants are building a bridge of their own.

Nine Christian denominations voted Sunday to move toward a broad affiliation of churches — a rare victory in the Consultation on Church Union's four-decade campaign to unite 20 million Protestants, despite their differences.

It was almost 40 years ago that the group's Presbyterian and Episcopalian founders, citing Jesus' call for "one faith, one baptism, one God," proposed a Protestant superchurch. When the plan was derailed by denominational loyalties and disagreements, the group opted for a proposal for church affiliation without merger.

The new document asks participating churches to declare publicly in the year 2002 that they are Churches Uniting in Christ. These churches would agree to share one baptism and to recognize one another as "authentic expressions of the one church of Jesus Christ."

They would also fully accept one another's ministers as "instruments of God's grace" by the year 2007.

The churches would regularly celebrate Eucharist together and join forces to fight racism.

"We can do it. We must do it, and we did it," said Vivian Robinson, president of the Consultation on Church Union, after the victory vote.

But it may be too soon to celebrate. Presiding Episcopal Bishop Frank T. Griswold noted that the Episcopalians' approval of the document depends on the group's success in hashing out a leadership conflict.

"If we can't resolve this question we might have to go our separate ways," he said.

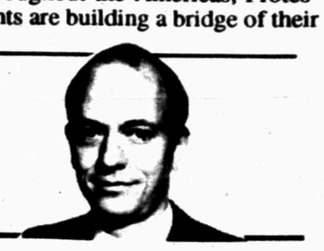
The dispute, said the Rev. David W.A. Taylor, former general secretary of the union and a Presbyterian minister, centers on "the respective place of bishops in the life of the church and the whole community of the baptized."

The Episcopalians believe in a succession of bishops dating back to the early church as a mark of continuity and unity. In the past, the union has asked the Presbyterians, who do not have bishops, to add a similar office of oversight.

The Presbyterians, who favor decentralization and less structure, rejected the idea. They have proposed instead recognizing a corporate oversight body made up of clergy and lay elders.

Bridge

By Phillip Alder



North 01-25-99
♠ 10 9 6 4
♥ A 7
♦ K J 5
♣ Q 10 9 8

West
♠ K 3
♥ K Q 10 9 4
♦ 9 6 2
♣ 6 5 3

East
♠ A
♥ 8 6 5 2
♦ A 10 8 4 3
♣ 7 4 2

South
♠ Q J 8 7 5 2
♥ J 3
♦ Q 7
♣ A K J

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ K

Benjamin Disraeli, the British prime minister in 1868 and 1874-80, claimed, "The magic of first love is our ignorance that it can ever end." True, and perhaps later loves also.

Some bridge deals enjoy a magic quality — for example, when you make an opponent's apparent trick disappear.

Take today's deal. Would you prefer to defend against or to declare four spades, assuming West leads the heart king?

North's three-spade response is a limit raise showing some 10-12 support points with at least four trumps. Without the sensible limit raise, you would be forced to respond two clubs. This has a major drawback: When you support spades next, partner will expect only three trumps. And that fourth spade will normally be worth an extra trick in the play.

The lead is annoying. Without it, you could have established a discard for your heart loser on the third diamond. Many players would win the first trick, play a club to hand, and lead the spade queen with an illegal furtive look in their eye. They hope that West, with the doubleton king (or ace) of spades, will put up his honor. Their ignorance is loving to the opposition!

Yet there is one possibility: That the clubs are 3-3 and either opponent has a singleton trump honor. After winning the first trick, play a club to the king, cash the club ace, and overtake the club jack with dummy's queen. Then lead the 13th club and discard your heart loser. Either East or West may ruff, but it costs one of the defense's two trump tricks. South loses two spades and one diamond.

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The disappearing trick

By Phillip Alder

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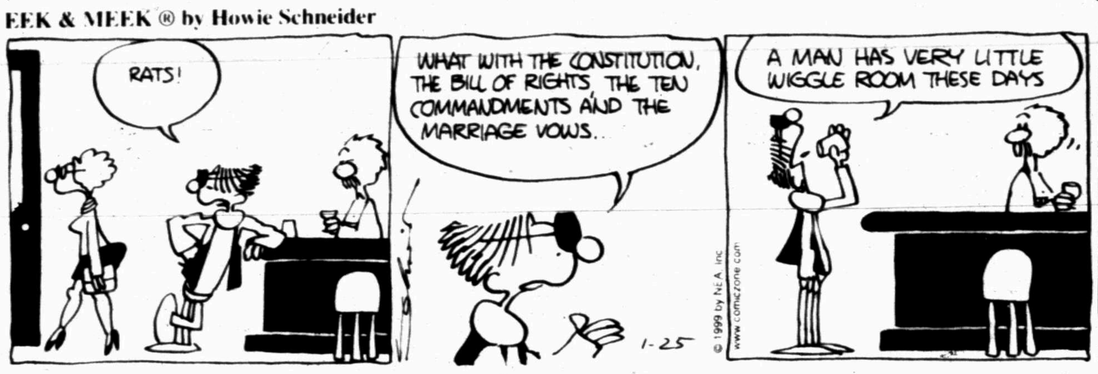
Comic Page

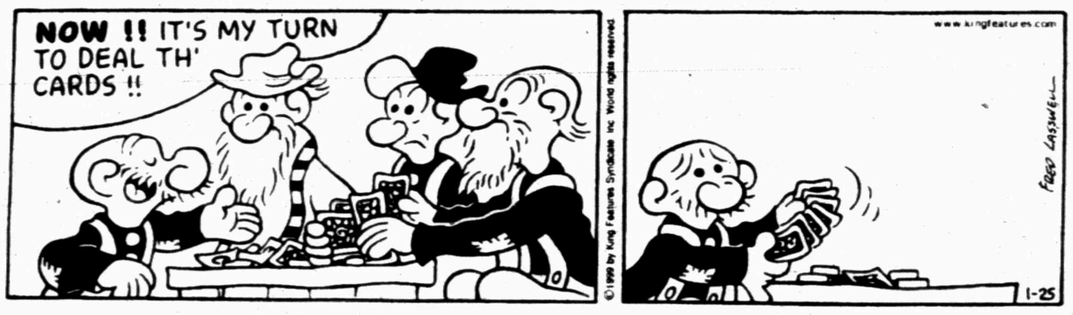
THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

THE BORN LOSER ® by Art and Chip Sansom

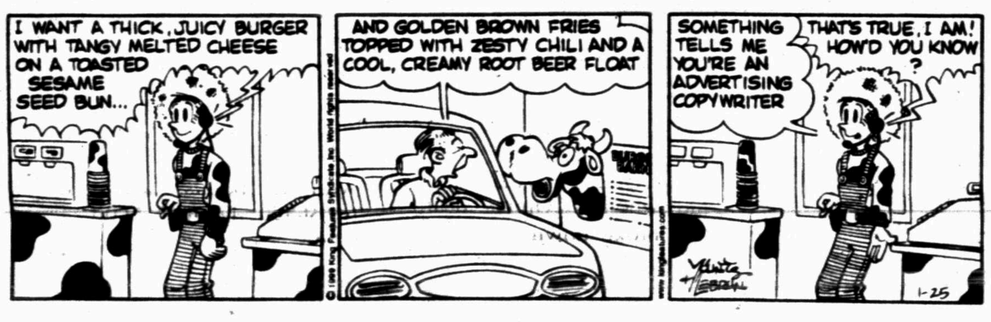
EEK & MEEK ® by Howie Schneider



Barney Google and Snuffy Smith ® By Fred Lasswell



BLONDIE ® by Dean Young and Stan Drake



THE GRIZZWELLS ® by Bill Schorr

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Rare gas
6 Gusto
10 Type of name
12 Method of procedure
14 Acquiesce
15 Self-confidence
16 The woman
17 Possess
19 Zoo creatures
20 This evening
23 Sailing ship
26 View
27 Ending for verb
30 Tell
32 City in Italy
34 Highest point in Turkey
35 Wooded paths
36 Hoodlum
37 Moving truck
39 Move like a crab
40 Made muddy
42 Greek letter
45 Inhabitant (suff.)
46 Dad's partner
49 Phonograph inventor
51 Made of a nubby woolen fabric
54 Whole
55 Simpler
56 First-rate (2 wds.)
57 Missionary Junipero

DOWN

1 Dec. holiday
2 Every
3 Not nasty
4 — to Joy
5 Rorem or Beatty
6 Use the microwave
7 Brilliance
8 Red traffic sign
9 Duration
11 Inert gas
12 Went off on a — (digressed)
13 Dan Rather's network
18 North of Ill.
20 Eye drop
21 Eight-line stanza
22 Funeral car
23 Medical picture
24 Finnish first name
25 Blurt out
27 Having an offensive odor
28 Be a vendor
29 Actual being
31 Lightweight fabric
33 Took care of the bills
38 Kind of pick?
40 Bathroom feature
41 Nerve network
42 Last letter
43 Novelist Ferber
44 Yugoslavia's Marshal
46 Israel's Golda
47 River in Germany
48 — Breckinridge
50 Miner's find
52 How the West — Won
53 Language suffix

Answer to Previous Puzzle

G	Y	P	S	U	M		G	H	O	S	T	S
I	O	L	I	T	E		O	A	R	P	I	N
R	O	A	M	E	D		G	Y	R	A	T	E
T	H	Y			I	L	E			R	T	E
H	O	E	D		A	I	T		U	S	E	R
	O	D	I	E		S	T	A	L	E	R	
			M	L	I		E	M	S			
			M	U	D		R	U	T			
	S	T	E	L	L	A		R	E	E	F	
A	P	E	R		E	L	I		R	A	L	E
N	I	L			N	E	D			R	O	M
T	R	E	B	L	E		O	N	E	T	W	O
E	A	G	L	E	S		L	I	T	H	E	R
S	L	A	T	E	S		S	M	E	A	R	Y

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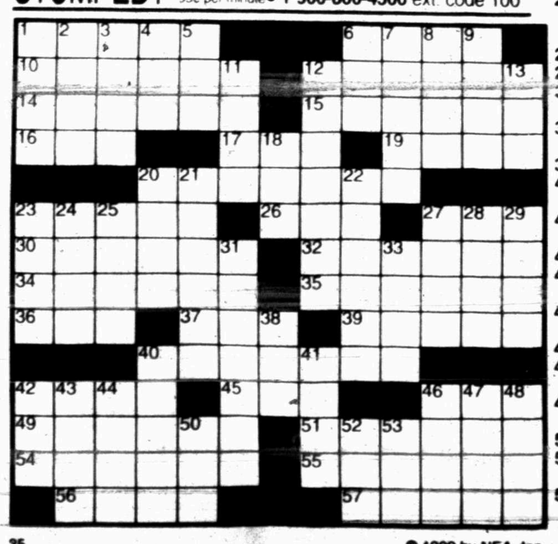

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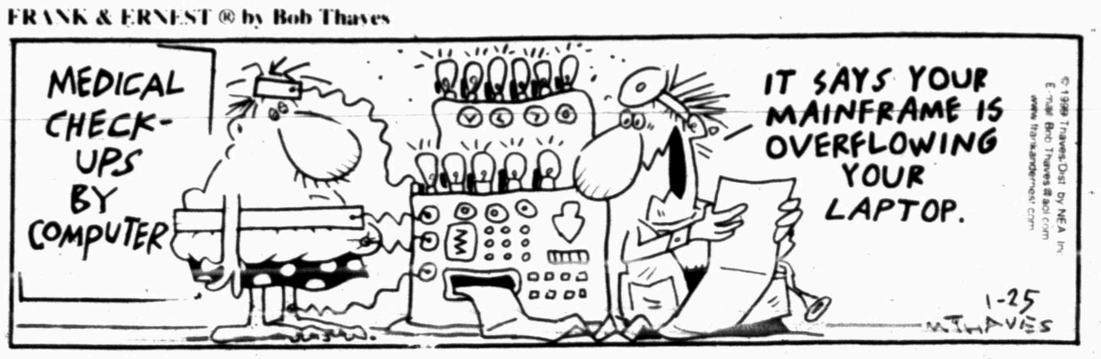

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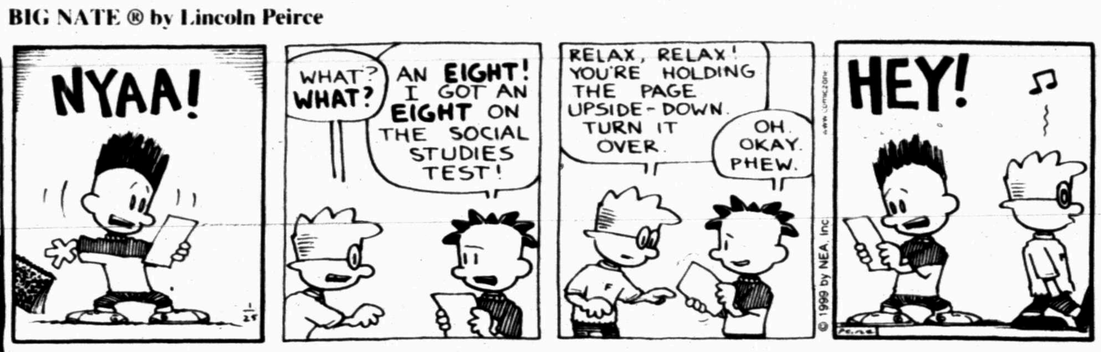

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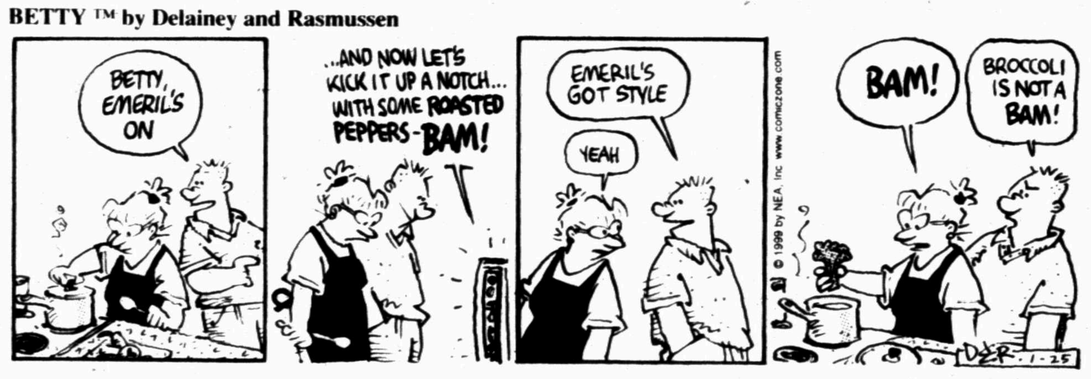
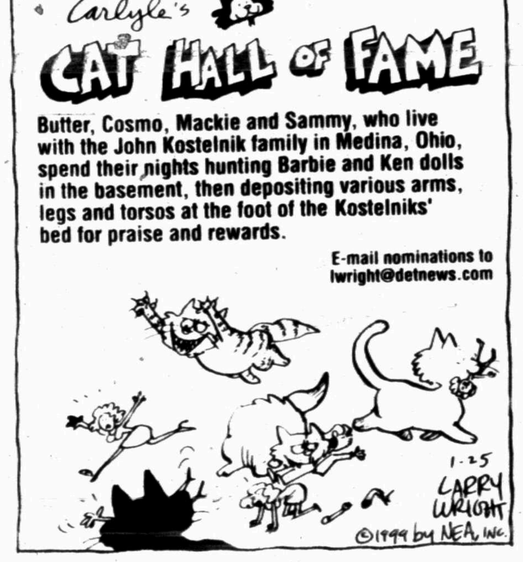
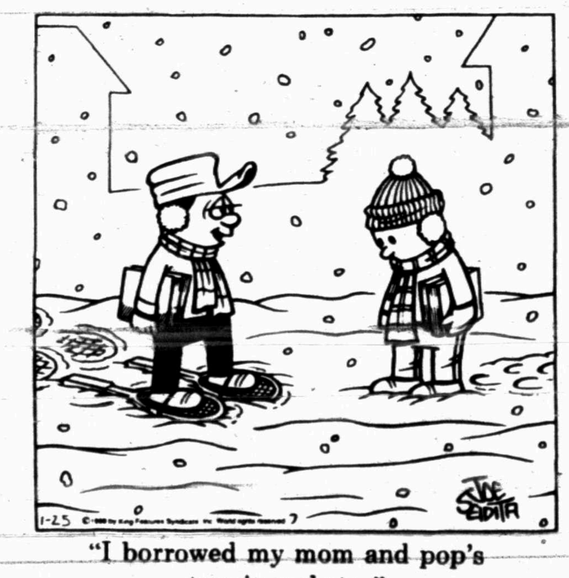


KIT 'N' CARLYLE ® by Larry Wright





"I borrowed my mom and pop's tennis rackets."

HERMAN® by Jim Unger

"I want to leave you a tip but I haven't got change for a quarter."

"I KINDA MISS DIAPERS. YOU DIDN'T HAFTA STOP PLAYING AND GO INSIDE!"

SPORTS

In bribery scandal...

IOC panel ousts six members

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — Six IOC members were ousted Sunday in an unprecedented purge stemming from the biggest corruption scandal in the history of the Olympics.

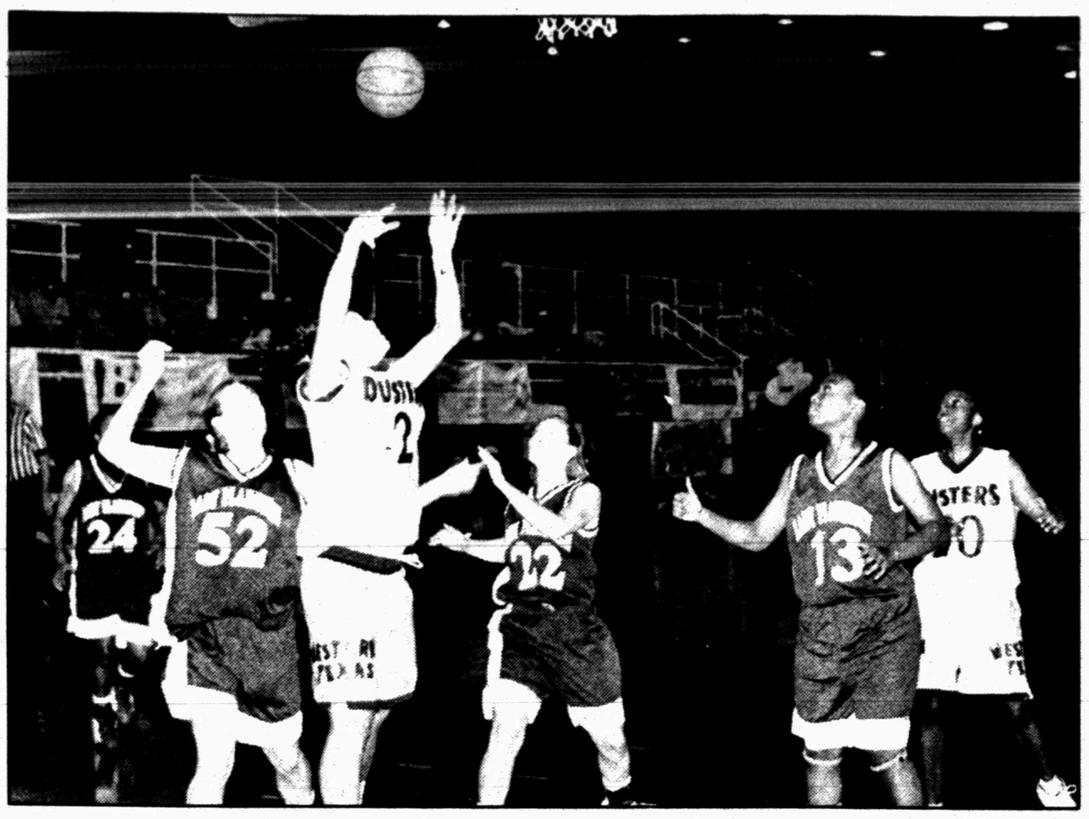
The embattled president of the International Olympic Committee said the action was taken to end "the ugliest chapter" ever for the world's biggest sports event, which in the last two decades has also become a billion-dollar business.

As a third member resigned in the Salt Lake City scandal, IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch said three other members remained under investigation, while a fourth was warned about his actions by the ruling executive board.

Samaranch said he had "temporarily excluded" the six members, with a final vote due in March. The head of the investigation, IOC vice president Dick Pound, said the six were essentially expelled and could only ask to be reinstated by the remaining 106 IOC members.

A special inquiry found eight IOC members had pocketed more than $440,000 in cash and excessive gifts and services. One, Jean-Claude Ganga of the Republic of Congo, received more than $216,000, the report said.

The action came at the end of two-day emergency meeting to deal with a spiraling crisis that started with allegations of vote-buying in Salt Lake's winning bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics.



TRAN FOR TWO — Western Texas freshman Kathy Tran lays in two more points during conference action last week against Frank Phillips. The Lady Dusters, 2-2 in WJCAC play, travel to Odessa this evening at 5:50 to face the 2-2 Lady Wranglers. (SDN Staff Photo)

Horns look to keep Big 12 lead tonight

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The last thing Oklahoma needs right now is to play a hot opponent with a good big man.

But that is just what the Sooners get tonight when Texas — the surprise Big 12 leader — comes to town.

Oklahoma has lost three straight and looked particularly bad in a 66-51 loss at Kansas State. Leading scorer Eduardo Najera was held to just three points.

"We're kind of playing soft in the post instead of aggressive," Sooners coach Kelvin Sampson said.

That opens the door for Texas' 7-foot center Chris Mihm, coming off his fourth-straight double-double with 22 points and 14 rebounds in an upset of No. 23 Oklahoma State Saturday.

Texas leads the Big 12 by a half-game after No. 19 Kansas was upset Sunday by Missouri.

In weekend games, Missouri defeated Kansas 71-63, Texas beat Oklahoma State 73-70, Iowa State defeated Texas Tech 70-62; and Texas A&M edged Baylor 57-56.

Texas (10-9, 6-1 Big 12) beat the Cowboys without its leading scorer as Gabe Muoneke served a one-game suspension imposed by coach Rick Barnes after Muoneke punched two Kansas players last week.

Texas, off to its best conference start since it started the 1993-94 Southwest Conference season 9-1, shot 52 percent after shooting no better than 36 percent in its last three games.

Snyder fosh bury Wolves

COLORADO CITY — Following the first half of action, the question wasn't whether Snyder's freshman boys would win, but whether they would surrender a point.

Snyder blanked Colorado City for the entire first half Saturday, on its way to a 72-14 thrashing of the Wolves.

The Tigers netted 26 points in the opening quarter and 15 more in the second, while shutting down Colorado City for a 41-0 halftime lead.

The Wolves finally broke the scoreless drought in the second half with four three-pointers and a two-point bucket.

Snyder was also on target from behind the arc, with Jay Scott, Tate Thompson and Wes Martin each draining a pair of three-pointers.

Bradley Spells led the Tigers with 15 points, while Martin registered 12 and Scott added nine.

Snyder will be in action again tonight at Sweetwater, beginning at 6 p.m.

Snyder 72, Colorado City 14

Snyder: Bradley Spells, 15; Wes Martin, 12; Jay Scott, 9; Tate Thompson, 8; Colter Bedell, 6; Brooks Nunley, Nick Landes and Jamaal Pruitt, 4; Chris McLeod, Brandon McGuire, Rudy Martinez and Michael Velasquez, 2; Ricki Dorsett and Wade Pinson, 1.

With integrity intact...

McGinnis returns home to Arizona

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — There's one rule of football that doesn't change, from the Pop Warner leagues to the pros: Never, ever let go of the ball until you've crossed the goal line.

Looks like Chicago Bears president Michael McCaskey forgot that rule.

Still upset that McCaskey announced his hiring before he'd even been offered the job, Snyder native Dave McGinnis withdrew from consideration for the Bears coaching job Saturday and went home to Arizona. It was further embarrassment for McCaskey and the Bears, still reeling from one of the worst personnel moves in sports.

The Bears wasted little time finding a replacement for McGinnis, choosing Jacksonville defensive coordinator Dick Jauron on Saturday night. The team said it would introduce Jauron at a news conference Sunday.

"It's very sad for me," McGinnis, a Snyder High and TCU graduate, told reporters at O'Hare Airport as he and his wife, Kim, waited to board a flight back to Phoenix. "Again, I want to express, the city of Chicago, the Chicago Bears are very, very special. Obviously, we just couldn't reach an agreement. That's all I can say."

The disagreement had nothing to do with money, the length of the contract or the structure of the contract, McCaskey said.

"I don't care to go into it now and probably never will. It's between me and Dave," he said. "These things happen. Sometimes, they are a pathway to consideration of other things and that's what happened in this case.

"Both Dave and I decided under these kind of circumstances it was best we not go ahead jointly in the future."

The debacle began Friday morning when the Bears announced they'd hold an afternoon news conference to introduce McGinnis, the Arizona Cardinals' defensive coordinator and a former Chicago assistant, as their new coach. They even changed the message on former coach Dave Wannstedt's voice mail to say, "You have reached the office of head coach David McGinnis."

But there was one big problem: McGinnis hadn't even been offered the job yet.

"That was an internal foul-up," McCaskey said. "We made a mistake on that."

He refused to explain any further.

"We didn't intend for it to happen," he said. "It's something we did internally and I don't want to get into it. We made a mistake, and I don't want to go into detail about it."

Both McCaskey and Mark Hatley, the Bears vice president of player personnel, said they thought they would reach a deal with McGinnis after spending Thursday meeting with him. In fact, Hatley was so confident he flew McGinnis' wife in from Phoenix.

But even Hatley was surprised when he saw the announcement that McGinnis was the new coach. And when McGinnis heard it, talks broke down.

"It started, obviously, with the announcement made before we had anything signed," McGinnis said. "And it went downhill from there."

Finally, after another meeting Saturday morning with Michael McCaskey, McGinnis called it quits.

Local Sports Schedule

TODAY

Basketball: Western Texas at Odessa, Odessa JC Sports Arena, 5:50 p.m.

Snyder 9th grade boys at Sweetwater, 6 p.m.

Snyder 7th & 8th grade girls & boys at Sweetwater, 5 p.m., 6:15 p.m.

Hermleigh Jr. High at Highland, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY

Basketball: Snyder Tigers host Andrews, JV at 6 p.m., varsity at 7:30 p.m.

Snyder Lady Tigers host Andrews, JV at 4:30 p.m., varsity at 6 p.m.

Hermleigh varsity girls & boys at Loraine, 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m.

Ira varsity girls & boys at Westbrook, 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Basketball: Western Texas hosts South Plains, 7:30 p.m.

Snyder 7th & 8th grade girls at Andrews tourney.

Ira Jr. High hosts Borden County, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY

Basketball: Snyder Tigers at Big Spring, JV at 6 p.m., varsity at 7:30 p.m.

Snyder Lady Tigers at Big Spring, JV at 4:30 p.m., varsity at 6 p.m.

Hermleigh hosts Blackwell, girls at 6:30 p.m., boys at 8 p.m.

Ira hosts Grady, girls at 6:30 p.m., boys at 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Basketball: Snyder 9th grade boys at Abilene High, 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Snyder 9th grade girls at Lubbock High, 11 a.m.

Snyder 7th & 8th grade girls at Andrews tourney.

NCAA Basketball Scores

Saturday's Men's Scores

EAST

Connecticut 62, Seton Hall 47
George Washington 81, Rhode Island 74
Georgetown 79, Pittsburgh 71
Temple 65, Massachusetts 57
Villanova 73, West Virginia 62

SOUTH

Auburn 73, Alabama 58
Florida 93, Tennessee 72
Florida St. 71, N. Carolina St. 59
Georgia Tech 77, Virginia 65
Kentucky 76, Mississippi St. 49
LSU 64, Vanderbilt 59
Memphis 83, South Florida 70
Mississippi 85, Georgia 76
North Carolina 52, Wake Forest 40
Tulane 89, Houston 84
UCLA 82, Louisville 70

MIDWEST

Cincinnati 55, Saint Louis 44
Iowa St. 70, Texas Tech 62
Kansas St. 66, Oklahoma 51
Nebraska 72, Colorado 55
Ohio St. 89, Minnesota 60
Penn St. 65, Illinois 61
Purdue 81, Michigan 71
Rutgers 72, Notre Dame 70
Valparaiso 86, Ind.-Pur.-Indpls. 71
Wisconsin 72, Iowa 52
Xavier 93, Virginia Tech 69

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas 118, Providence 79
Cal Poly-SLO 93, North Texas 86
Southern Meth. 73, Air Force 71
Texas 73, Oklahoma St. 70
Texas A&M 57, Baylor 56
Texas-El Paso 67, New Mexico 49
Tulsa 65, Rice 50
UNLV 95, Texas Christian 88, OT

FAR WEST

Arizona St. 64, Oregon 60
California 75, Washington St. 68
New Mexico St. 83, UC Santa Barbara 61
Stanford 67, Washington 60
Utah 70, San Jose St. 54

Sunday's Men's Scores

EAST

Duke 92, St. John's 88, OT
Miami 75, Boston College 67
Syracuse 84, South Carolina 37

SOUTH

Maryland 81, Clemson 79, OT

MIDWEST

Marquette 62, DePaul 46
Michigan St. 73, Indiana 59
Missouri 71, Kansas 63

Saturday's Women's Scores

EAST

Boston College 78, Connecticut 66
Georgetown 78, Seton Hall 73
Washington 76, Dickinson 73

SOUTH

Florida St. 71, N. Carolina St. 59
Louisiana Tech 79, W. Kentucky 65
Marquette 74, South Florida 69
Tennessee Tech 94, Morehead St. 66

MIDWEST

Kansas 55, Texas Tech 45
Kansas St. 79, Missouri 67
Notre Dame 99, St. John's 60
Wichita St. 72, Bradley 71

SOUTHWEST

DePaul 88, Houston 85
Oklahoma St. 70, Texas A&M 69
Rice 60, Tulsa 55

FAR WEST

Arizona 91, Oregon St. 60
Colorado 70, Nebraska 53
Oregon 68, Arizona St. 52
Southern Meth. 70, Air Force 50
UCLA 94, Southern Cal 53
Washington St. 73, California 54

WJCAC Women

Team	Conference W	Conference L	Season W	Season L
Midland	4	0	17	2
Howard	3	1	18	2
South Plains	3	1	12	8
WTC	2	2	15	6
Odessa	2	2	13	4
New Mexico	1	3	13	6
Clarendon	1	3	7	5
FPC	0	4	5	14

Thursday's results: Western Texas 78, Frank Phillips 53; South Plains 65, Odessa 55; Midland 86, Clarendon 41; Howard 66, New Mexico 56.

Tonight's games: Western Texas at Odessa; Howard at South Plains; New Mexico at Clarendon; Midland at Frank Phillips.

Thursday's games: South Plains at Western Texas; Odessa at Midland; Frank Phillips at New Mexico; Clarendon at Howard.

Sports Briefs

Duval cards 59, ties tour mark

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP) — David Duval, uncannily accurate in every phase of the game, matched the lowest round in PGA Tour history Sunday by shooting a 13-under-par 59 to win the Bob Hope Desert Classic at 26-under.

After making 11 birdies, Duval capped his day by ramming an 8-foot eagle putt into the center of the cup on No. 18.

Duval concluded his round with a 31 on the front nine and 28 on the back at the 6,950-yard Arnold Palmer course at PGA West. He finished with a five-round total of 334.

Indoor pole vault record set

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Jeff Hartwig has broken his own American indoor pole vault record — barely.

Hartwig broke the record by a half-inch when he cleared 19-4¾ at the USA Track and Field National Pole Vault Summit here Friday night.

Hartwig, who also holds the American outdoor mark, attempted a height of 19-8¼ after setting the record, but failed on all three attempts.

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Dr. Gott

By Peter Gott, M.D.

Son needs counseling

DEAR DR. GOTT: My son, 48, has come home to live with me after two traumatic divorces. Although he housecleans and does most of the cooking, he is withdrawing by shutting himself up in his room with the TV and rarely communicating with me. He rarely talks to his children. I'm worried. How can I get him to agree to counseling?

DEAR READER: You are correct in your perception that your son needs professional attention, because he may be suffering from depression or another treatable emotional problem. At the very least, he needs to put his interpersonal crises behind him and get on with his life. However, he is unlikely to seek help until he wants it; that is, he may not agree to counseling until he feels the need to do so.

Unfortunately, you cannot force him to get the assistance that would probably change his life for the better. Nonetheless, you can certainly express your concerns by reminding him of the reality of the situation: He has had two severe crises in his life, and you — and perhaps his friends — are worried about him. Counseling seems to be a logical option. You might also ask his doctor to intervene. Often a professional, such as a physician who knows your son, can exert some gentle pressure on him to get help.

Finally, engage his children. Maybe they feel bad that they haven't heard from their father and have been waiting for him to make the initial contact. He is clearly unable to do this, so hearing from them might enhance his feeling of self-worth and reaffirm their love for him. Perhaps by using such a unified approach, you can encourage your son to come out of his shell, assume his adult responsibilities, resolve the issues with his children, and get on with his life.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Mental and Emotional Illness." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I thought I was suffering from allergies, but my nasal congestion was eventually diagnosed as vasomotor rhinitis. Once I stopped the antihistamines and nasal sprays and started to use Vancenase, I got better. Why don't allergists consider this condition when evaluating patients?

DEAR READER: Vasomotor rhinitis is a fancy phrase that really means "hay fever" or one of its variants. Vancenase is a nasal inhaler that contains cortisone and it is widely prescribed. The medicine is an appropriate treatment for runny nose and sinus congestion caused by a variety of agents. Most allergists do, indeed, consider vasomotor rhinitis in patients with nasal irritation.

DEAR DR. GOTT: In several of your past columns, you have implied that biblical teachings should be interpreted and not taken at face value. This view is at odds with fundamentalist Christian beliefs. Such heresy will bring God's punishment upon you, unless you recant and avow your belief in a benevolent and generous God, who loves us as long as we follow His way.

DEAR READER: I accept your convictions but I don't agree with them. No one knows "God's way," the Bible notwithstanding. There is great wisdom in the Good Book, but much of it is allegorical. Moreover, biblical texts have been translated in ways that twist Scripture in keeping with the translators' prejudices and opinions. For example, my grandfather — until the day he died — was convinced that the world was created in seven 24-hour periods. He refused to consider that the word "day" in Genesis might actually mean eons. Also, Scripture states that Jesus cured lepers, when it is more likely — and no less miraculous — that the word "leper" denotes a variety of skin diseases that were prevalent at that time.

I was recently privileged to hear a lecture by the distinguished astronomer, Prof. Timothy Ferris, in which he reviewed some of the stunning information transmitted back to Earth by the Hubble telescope. This device has enabled us to look into the far reaches of our universe, where whole galaxies — larger by far than our own — are forming and collapsing. In one picture of an exploding star, jets of plasma — measuring a billion lights years in length — shot into space. Think of this: Parts of this galaxy extended for a billion light years, and this was a small event in our cosmos. I cannot conceive of a billion light years; it's beyond my grasp — and that's only a tiny part of our universe, beyond which are trillions of other universes, without end, it would seem.

Despite our fervent wishes to the contrary, we humans are simply inconsequential specks who predictably haven't a clue about God's will or the universe as a whole; it has been said that we know less about our world than an ant knows about the British Museum. I like that analogy.

Therefore, while I respect your beliefs, I do not subscribe to them. I prefer to resolve issues of creation and evolution by using science and rational thought, in conjunction with the insightful beauty of Scripture. Carl Sagan, another eminent astronomer, once offered a definition that I find magnificent. God is the sum total of all the laws of nature. Nice, huh?

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am on atenolol for high blood pressure. For the past few months, my resting pulse has been between 45 and 50. If I exercise, it rises only to 60. Why is this? Is it dangerous?

DEAR READER: Atenolol is a beta-blocker, and all the drugs in this class slow the pulse, along with lowering the blood pressure. I don't believe that you need to worry about this; it's simply a consequence of your medication. Nonetheless, mention it to your doctor and let him or her confirm that everything is OK.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Hypertension." Other readers who would like a copy should send $2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I've read that yogurt, if eaten over a long period of time, causes blindness. Is this true?

DEAR READER: No, it's untrue. Yogurt, a cultured milk product, has been used for centuries in many parts of the world. It's true that some modern, commercially prepared yogurt contains food coloring, flavoring and additives, but I am unaware of any health problem that could result from consuming any yogurt approved for sale in this country. Moreover, yogurt is a healthful nutrient because, in most instances, it contains low quantities of butterfat and cholesterol.

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Quiet weekend for officers

It was a relatively quiet weekend for officers as only two arrests were made and three offense reports were filed.

At 3:55 a.m. Sunday, a 23-year-old female was taken into custody by officers in the 3900 block of Avenue O on a warrant for issuance of bad check.

Officers arrested a 27-year-old male for public intoxication at 11:37 a.m. Sunday at Town & Country.

Randy Williams requested an officer at 3:30 p.m. Saturday in the 2300 block of 41st Street in reference to cement being taken from his residence. An offense report for Class B theft was filed.

An officer was called to the Jamie Boulware residence in the 300 block of 36th Place at 3:50 p.m. Saturday in reference to the theft of a bicycle. An offense report for Class B theft was submitted.

At 3:28 p.m. Sunday, Linda Proctor requested an officer in the 3000 block of 40th Street in reference to someone coming inside the residence and taking a wallet. An offense report for burglary was submitted.

Officers also worked two motor vehicle accidents over the weekend.

The first accident occurred at 2:18 p.m. Saturday in the 3700 block of College Avenue. Involved were a 1988 Honda Accord driven by Tabitha Dawn Burrell of 700 E. 37th Street and a 1995 Chevrolet driven by John Christopher Covey Jr of 5210 Etgen.

At 1:26 p.m. Sunday, a two-vehicle mishap occurred in the 1300 block of E. 37th Street. Involved were a 1990 Mitsubishi Galant driven by Emily Louise Harding of 2706 42nd Street and a 1990 Chevrolet Suburban driven by George Edward Skags of 2802 36th Street.

Woman survives

PLANO (AP) — A woman has survived a collision that sent her car plunging 30 feet into a construction ditch where workers were on the job.

The woman's small car was struck by a woman driving a Lincoln who failed to yield at a point where three lanes narrow into two, Plano police said. The impact sent the victim into a curb and a big construction hole.

The driver, who was not identified, complained of chest pain and was flown by helicopter to a Dallas hospital as a precautionary measure, said police Lt. Mike Tower.

"The car came flying over our heads, hit the side of the pit, rolled a couple times and landed at the bottom," said construction worker Heath Sisk.

GRAND CHAMPION LAMB — Katie Voss' lamb took top honors Friday night in the Scurry County Junior Livestock Show held at Scurry County Coliseum. (SDN Staff Photo)

'Varsity Blues' holds on to No. 1 slot in U.S. movies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Young moviegoers eager for a high school tale of gridiron sweat, beer and sex kept "Varsity Blues" at the top of the box office charts, according to weekend estimates.

The film, starring James Van Der Beek of TV's "Dawson's Creek," grossed an estimated $10.6 million over the weekend, far outpacing the $2.1 million in ticket sales for "Gloria" — the only new film in wide release.

"Gloria" stars Sharon Stone in the remake of John Cassavetes' 1980 story of a mob mistress who flees with a young boy after hitmen kill his family. It took in a meager average of $1,375 per location, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. on Sunday.

"Patch Adams," which had dipped in recent weeks, jumped back to second place with $8.1 million, followed by the legal drama "A Civil Action" with $7.6 million.

The World War II epic "The Thin Red Line" dropped to No. 4 with $5.8 million while "Stepmom" climbed to No. 5 with $5.2 million.

"At First Sight" fell one spot to No. 6 in its second week with $4.9 million and "You've Got Mail" held on to seventh place with $4.2 million.

"The Prince of Egypt" shared its No. 8 slot and $3.6 million take with "Shakespeare in Love," the big winner Sunday night at the 56th Golden Globes. "Shakespeare in Love" won honors as best comedy or musical, Gwyneth Paltrow was named best actress in a comedy or musical and the film won for best screenplay.

The critically praised "A Simple Plan" rounded out the top 10 with $3,400 on just 660 screens for a per-screen average of $5,152 — the second-highest average in the top 10. "Shakespeare in Love" had the highest at $5,496.

Here are estimated grosses at North American theaters for Friday through Sunday. Final figures were expected today:

1. "Varsity Blues," $10.6 million.
2. "Patch Adams," $8.1 million.
3. "A Civil Action," $7.6 million.
4. "The Thin Red Line," $5.8 million.
5. "Stepmom," $5.2 million.
6. "At First Sight," $4.9 million.
7. "You've Got Mail," $4.2 million.

Hospital

ADMISSIONS: Jan. 22: Ola Green, Mary Janeke, Sabrina Perez, Helen Wortham; Jan. 23: Orosco Richard, Rube McKinley; Jan. 24: Joyce Becker, William Erwin, Lynda Robinson, Joe Trice, S.F. Becker, Flores twin boys, Margie Helm of Ira, Tracer Jones of Big Spring, Melissa Mosher, Bennie Wright.

DISMISSALS: Jan. 22: Odel Holdren, Cheri Hollis, Mariano Becerra, William Erwin, Christopher Haynes Jr., Kaycee Westlund; Jan. 23: Austin King, Alex Luecke, Sabrina Perez; Jan. 24: Opalene Brown, Durwood Hopper, Richard Orosco.

CENSUS: 45 (Med., Surg.-18, Long-term Care-25, CCU-2).

Births

Sabrina Perez of Snyder announces the birth of her daughter at 6:43 a.m. on Jan. 22 in Cogdell Memorial Hospital. She weighed six pounds, 7½ ounces.

Markets

Midday Stocks

NEWYORK(AP)

	High	Low	Last	
AMR Corp s	56⅝	53⅛	55⅝+	⅜
AT&T Corp	88⅛	84⅛	86	— 2⅛
AirTouch	95½	93¾	95¾+	1½
Albertsons	59 1-16	58⅛	58 15-16	— 1-16
AlldSignal	39 11-16	38⅛	39⅛	— ⅛
Alltel	64 13-16	64¼	64 11-16+	5-16
AmOnline s	143 15-16	140⅝	142 5-16+	1¾
AmStores	34 15-16	34	11-16 34 15-16+	⅛
Ameritech	69	68¼	68 11-16+	7-16
AndrkPtr s	28⅛	28	1-16 28⅜+	⅜
Armcolnc	5⅜	5	1-16 5⅜	
AtlRichfld	60¼	59¾	60	
ATMOS Egy	29 9-16	29¼	29¼+	1-16
Aviall	10 11-16	10⅛	10 11-16+	3-16
BP Amoco	87¼	85¼	86⅛+	⅛
BakerHughes	18 7-16	18	1-16 18 3-16	— ⅛
BankAmerica	65 5-16	64¼	64⅜	— 5-16
BellAtl s	58⅜	57½	57⅝	—1 1-16
BellSouth s	47¼	46½	46½	—1 9-16
BethSteel	9½	9¾	9 7-16+	3-16
BurlNoSFe s	33 5-16	33	33 5-16+	⅜
CBS Corp	35 3-16	34½	34⅜	— ⅜
Caterpillar	44 13-16	44 5-16	44 7-16+	½
CenSoWst	27⅛	26⅜	26⅝	— 7-16
Chevron	79 11-16	79¼	79½	— ½
Citigroup	53	51¼	52¾+	1¼
Coastal s	31⅜	30	13-16 31	+ 1-16
CocaCola	61	60	1-16 60¼	
ColgatePalm	76	75¼	75½+	⅜
ComclMetals	24 15-16	24	15-16 24 15-16	
CooperIn	43	5-16	43¼ 43	3-16
CyprusAmax	10 1-16	9	9-16 9⅜	— 5-16
DaimlrChry n	102¼	100½	101¼	—2 1-16
DallSemicn	37 11-16	36¼	36½	— 5-16
DeltaAirl s	50 7-16	48¼	50⅜+	1¾
Dillards Inc	25½	24¼	25	5-16+ 3-16
DowChem	89½	86	13-16 89⅜+	2¾
DuPont	54⅜	53¼	54	3-16— ⅛
EastmanChem	47¾	47¼	47 7/16	5/16
EstKodak	66¼	65	3-16 66⅛+	⅜
EDS Corp	54	52½	53	1-16+11-16
Entergy	30 5-16	30¼	30	3-16+ 1-16
Exxon	71¾	71	1-16 71	7-16+ 1-16
FstBksAm	19¾	19¼	19⅜	— ¼
Flowers	25 5/16	22⅝	23¼	1
FordMotor s	61	3-16	60¾ 61	+ ⅛
GTE Cp	68¾	67	7-16 67⅞	— 1
GenDynam s	54⅛	53½	53	11-16+ 3-16
GenElec	99½	98	99	3-16+1 5-16
GenMills	79 15-16	78	7-16 79¾+	3-16
GenMotors	90¾	89⅛	89	7-16—1 5-16
GaPacGP	63 15-16	62	3-16 63½+	3½
GlobalMar	9	9-16	9⅝ 9¾	— 3-16
Goodrich	35	34⅜	35	+ ⅜
Goodyear s	48⅜	4848¾+	⅛	
GtAtlPac	31	11-16	30½ 31⅛+	⅛
Halliburtn	32¾	31¼	31	5-16—11-16
Hanson ADS	35	5-16	34 13-16 35¼+	7-16
HarteHanks s	24½	24	5-16 24	5-16— ⅛
HomeDepot	56¼	55¾	56¼+	3-16
HoustonInds	31	7-16	31313⅛+	1-16
IBM	182¼	176	5-16 177⅞	— 2
IntlPaper	42¾	4142¾+	1¾	
JohnsonJn	78⅜	77¾	78	1-16— 7-16
K mart	16	1-16	15	7-16 15 9-16	— ⅛
Kroger Co	57	15-16	57	1-16 57 15-16+1	5-16
Litton	60	59¾	60	+ 9-16
LockheedM s	38	5-16	37	11-16 38⅛+	7-16
Lowes Cos s	53	7-16	52	11-16 52	13-16
Lubys	15¼	15	1-16	15 1-16—	3-16
LucentTech s	104¼	100½	101¾	—1	15-16
MayDeptStrs	58	7-16	57¼	58 +	1-16
MediaOne	51	15-16	51¾	51 15-16+	9-16
Medtronic	67	15-16	67	9-16	67¼
Mobil	87	1-16	86	1-16	86¼+ ½
Monsanto	40¼	39½	40¼+	¼	
MorganJP	103¾	102¾	103½+	¾	
Motorola	70	60	13-16	69¼+	½
NCR Corp	48	13-16	46¾	47 3-16—	1 13-16
Navistar	33	1-16	32	13-16 32	15-16+11-16
OryxEngy	12	3-16	12¼	12¼	
Penney JC	39	15-16	39	7-16	39¾
PennzEnrgy s	14¾	14¼	14½	— 3-16	
PepBoys	15¾	15¼	15	5-16+	¼
PepsiCo	39¾	38¾	39	+ 1-16	
PhelpDodge	47¼	46	3-16 47	+ 1	
PhilipPet	41⅞	40	15-16 40	15-16—	5-16
PilgrmPrd B	22¾	22¼	22¼	— ¼	
Polaroid	18	15-16	18	5-16 18⅝+	⅜
Praxair	34¼	33¾	33	15-16—	3-16
ProctGamb	86	83	11-16	84	—1 5-16
PubSNwMx	19	18	15-16	19	— 1-16
RoyalDut	43	7-16	42¾	43¾—	5-16
SBC Comm s	56	15-16	56¾	56 7-16—	3-16
SaraLee s	25	7-16	24¾	25 3-16+	⅛
Scripps EW	46	1-16	45¾	45 11-16—	¼
SearsRoeb	41	1-16	40¾	40⅝—	¼
SherwinW	25¾	24½	25¾—	7-16	
SmithkIBchm	69	15-16	6869	— ⅜	
SouthernCo	28¼	27	15-16	28⅛—	⅛
SwstAirl s	26¾	26⅛	26	7-16—	¼
SprintFON n	81	3-16	8081⅛+	⅜	
SprintPCS n	34¼	31⅞	32¼+	1¼	
Sunoco Inc	33	9-16	3333⅛	— 9-16	
TNP En	36	7-16	36	7-16 36	7-16
Tandy	48¾	47¼	48	+ ¾	
TempleInland	60	3-16	58¾	60	+1 5-16
Tenneco	34	33½	33⅝—	½	
Texaco	51	50	50	13-16+	9-16
TexInd	25	1-16	23	7-16	24½—13-16
TexasInst	93¼	90	9-16	92⅜	— ⅝
TexUtil	45¾	44¾	44	15-16	
Textron	70	7-16	69½	70¼+	⅛
TriconGlbR	45	13-16	45	7-16	45⅜— ⅛
TrinityInds	37	3-16	36¾	36 13-16—	7-16
TritonEngy	7½	7	3-16	7¾—	1-16
Tyler	4	15-16	4¼	4¾—	3-16
US West Inc	61½	59	3-16	59¾—1	13-16
USX-Marathn	27¾	26¾	26¾	—1	1-16
USX-USS	26	11-16	26¼	26¾+	7-16
UnCarbde	42	9-16	41½	42 7-16—	5-16
UnionPacif	49¾	48	13-16	49	— 7-16
UnitedTech	114¾	113¾	114	— 9-16	
Unocal	30¾	29	9-16	29 11-16—	9-16
Venator Grp	5	11-16	5½	5 9-16—	⅛
WalMart	82	11-16	81	3-16 81½—	½
WellsFargo	36	11-16	36	1-16 36¼—	⅛
WstnGasRs	5¾	5	13-16	5¾—	1-16
WinnDixie	44	15-16	43	11-16 44	15-16+1 1-16
Xerox Corp	110¼	108¼	109¾+	3-16	

Aid sought to keep welfare caseloads down

WASHINGTON (AP) — With welfare rolls at a 30-year low, President Clinton is proposing a package of welfare-to-work proposals meant to continue that decline.

But new numbers being released today show the job may be getting tougher, at least in a handful of states where the dramatic declines of recent years have begun to slow.

In his upcoming budget, the president will ask Congress to extend, and in some cases expand, programs aimed at encouraging businesses to hire people off welfare and helping people get to those jobs.

He also will ask for $1 billion to continue a program aimed at long-term welfare recipients and low-income fathers.

It is an increasingly important group of people.

Nationally, just under 8 million people remained on welfare at the end of September, down 44 percent from 14.3 million in 1994.

But state officials and academics alike long have cautioned that, at some point, nearly all the people who can move off welfare with relative ease will have left. That will leave those with deeper problems like substance abuse, domestic violence and very little education.

"We're past the situation where someone comes in who may need a little bit of confidence building, who may need a brush-up on skills and may need a new battery for the car — all things we can do," said John Garlinger of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. "We are left with the hard-core people."

Kansas has cut its welfare rolls by 62 percent since 1993. But by the end of the last fiscal year, healthy quarterly drops of 8 percent to 10 percent fell to just 1.7 percent, according to figures being released today.

In fact, at least eight states, most of which have seen incredible drops since 1993, saw reductions slow to a trickle in July, August and September 1998.

"There's a difference between the first three quarters of the year and the last quarter of the year," said Michael Wharton, a Department of Health and Human Services spokesman.

State officials say they are preparing to serve welfare recipients with tougher problems, moving beyond the "work first" approach that helps recipients look for work and then pushes them to take any job they can find.

Under work first, states do not try to solve every problem or get people the education they may need. They simply try to find them jobs, reasoning that work experience will help them move up the economic ladder.

But that is not enough for everyone, state officials say.

In Arkansas, the rolls fell just 2.7 percent in the last quarter of fiscal year 1998 after drops of about 9 percent in previous quarters, according to figures being released today.

Other states seeing dropoffs include Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts and North Carolina. New Mexico, after nearly cutting its roles in half, actually saw a 40 percent increase during 1998.

Seasonal variations may explain some of it.

Relief for battered oil industry sought

WASHINGTON (AP) — Concerned about the depressed state of America's energy industry, Oil Patch lawmakers on Capitol Hill are proposing tax breaks and other relief for producers reeling from collapsed oil prices.

But first they acknowledge that they'll have to dispel some myths about the industry, which runs the gamut from giant multinationals to the small independents operating wells that are especially tough for the independents. Their "stripper" wells individually produce fewer than 10 barrels daily but collectively account for 20 percent of domestic production.

Some independents are finding that it costs them more to get a barrel of oil out of the ground than they can earn on the market, which has been depressed by a world oversupply.

With the nation already heavily dependent on foreign energy sources, keeping those independents afloat is "a security issue for our country," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, who is co-chair of the Congressional Oil and Gas Forum.

Thornberry agreed.

"The big oil companies are not looking predominately for new oil inside the continental United States ... and so the only people that are looking for new oil and producing most of the oil from existing reserves inside the United States are these small and mid-sized producers," he said.

Mrs. Hutchison is poised to introduce legislation, backed by many oil-state colleagues, that would provide tax credits to independents and give them incentives to return inactive wells to production.

"By providing tax relief for marginal and inactive wells, we hope to help maintain existing jobs and domestic production and decrease our dependence on foreign sources of oil," said Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., a key sponsor of the legislation.

Their cause may be aided by the latest indicator of the industry's troubles. Last week, the number of domestic rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas hit an all-time low of 588. During the oil boom of the 1980s, the rig count peaked at 4,530.

"The less we drill today means the less crude oil we are most likely going to find for tomorrow," said Scott Espenshade, chief economist for the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

IPAA, which represents the nation's independents, backs the Hutchison measure. In the short term, however, the trade group wants the Clinton administration to take some 100 million barrels off the domestic market, buying the oil to replenish the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

"We think that would help really bring the market back into balance," Espenshade said.

Just as steel producers launched a public-relations blitz to highlight their industry's troubles, energy officials say they'll have to work harder to make the public understand the job loss and economic disruption occurring in their field.

"Certainly, we need to raise the P.R. (public-relations) campaign," said Lee Fuller, chief lobbyist for the petroleum producers' association.

Industry officials say nearly 500,000 energy-sector jobs have been lost since the early '80s, more than 29,000 of them last year alone. And they estimate the industry's troubles have deprived federal and state governments of $1.6 billion in royalties and taxes over the last 14 months.

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Astro-graph

By Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday

Tuesday, Jan. 26, 1999

Special financial opportunities could be in the offing for you in the year ahead where your work is concerned. The people in charge who could make this happen might reward your talents with extra advantages or greater remunerations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You can't afford to dillydally today if something personally promising unexpectedly pops up. Strike while the iron is hot if you hope to capitalize on it properly. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail $2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Even if someone else is calling all the shots today, a situation you've been concerned about should work out rather well even if you can't handle it personally. Have faith.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Don't ignore your instincts today if they urge you to contact a certain person. Something exciting could result from the meeting and you'll want to take advantage of it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) When making an important presentation today, first be certain that you establish all the basic points. Make your big pitch only after you've laid a strong foundation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) There's a strong chance your boss could be in a generous frame of mind today, so this might be the time to drop a hint in his or her ear about that raise or bonus you feel you've earned.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Proper timing is the key to success and today might be the day you've been waiting for to introduce your plans for initiating something significant. Use your best instincts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) It will be in arrangements where your close friends are directly involved that you should experience your best accomplishments today. Additional opportunities could develop through them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Both career and financial realms are the best areas where good things could happen for you today, so devote maximum effort in these venues. Leave other things for another day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Although there's presently a very viable market for knowledge or goods you possess, it will be up to you to get in touch with the right people so they'll know what you have to offer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) There appears to be exceptional possibilities available today for some type of joint venture in which you're a member. This is due in great part to the abilities of those involved.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Make certain that all of the aspects are clearly defined and any written negotiations such as contracts or agreements should work out quite well today. Just be mindful of the details.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) The financial trends are extremely favorable for you today, particularly in arrangements where you provide some special type of service or expertise. Go for it!

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Dear Abby

By Abigail Van Buren

Flurry of Family Birthdays Makes Fiance Feel Left Out

by Abigail Van Buren

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DEAR ABBY: My fiance, "Bob," and I have a problem. It seems like every few days we receive an invitation to a birthday party for someone in his large extended family. Just yesterday, we received an invitation to a joint celebration for both his aunt's birthday (she will be 41) and his cousin, who will be 22. The problem is, none of these people ever send Bob a birthday card. He does receive cards from his immediate family, one of his two grandmothers and my family, but nothing from any of his extended family.

Abby, it hurts him when they forget his birthday, especially when we receive an invitation to yet another family birthday. I don't feel comfortable saying anything to them on his behalf.

Is there anything we can do?

FEELING FRUSTRATED

DEAR FEELING: Do you send cards to these family members whether or not they're having a party? If you do, then they should reciprocate.

If you want your fiance's family to make a fuss about his birthday, throw him a party and invite them. Far better to perpetuate family traditions than to do nothing and brood because they don't observe your fiance's birthday in the way you think they should.

***

DEAR ABBY: I am a 30-year-old male. Three years ago I met a wonderful woman two years my junior. We dated, fell in love and became engaged.

During the last year, we've been arguing about personality differences (disrespectful behavior, selfishness, insecurities — the usual stuff). We love each other very much; however, we have both behaved inappropriately when we were angry.

She broke off the engagement. I desperately want to work this out, but she's acting very cold and says she's not sure she wants to marry me. I've told her I'm sorry, that the issues we fought about are trivial and we can work them out, but she is hurt and afraid.

Abby, what do I do now?

STRICKEN IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR STRICKEN: Back off for a while, but try to maintain contact until she calms down. She may change her mind after a cooling-off period.

Meanwhile, the library has many books on relationships. Among them are some that teach couples how to fight "constructively." It's a skill that isn't always taught in public schools or even in many homes, because the majority of people have never learned how to disagree without alienating the other person. Learning this important lesson can help you detour from bumpy roads ahead.

***

DEAR ABBY: When you have made the suggestion in past columns to offer making a visitor's reservation at a nearby motel — who is supposed to pay for it?

Is it assumed that the visitor will pay for his own accommodations, or is it assumed that with the offer of making the reservation comes the obligation to pay for it? Thank you for your answer on this one.

JUST WONDERING

DEAR JUST WONDERING: The visitor should pay the bill for the accommodations.

***

DEAR ABBY: Can I get pregnant when I am getting or having my menstrual period? Can a girl get pregnant having her first intercourse?

WORRIED GIRLFRIEND IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR WORRIED GIRLFRIEND: Yes to both questions. Unless a girl's menstrual periods are 100 percent "regular," there is no absolutely "safe" time. Very few girls have perfectly regular cycles, and because of this, the rhythm method (also known as "baby roulette") is unreliable. Also, a boy can father a child from the time he experiences his first ejaculation, which usually occurs between the ages of 11 and 15.

Abby shares her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "Abby's More Favorite Recipes." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $3.95 per booklet ($4.50 each in Canada) to: Dear Abby Booklets, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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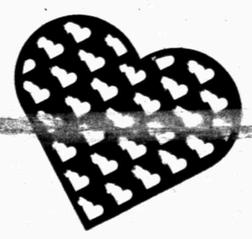

Bring Your Valentine Messages & Photos To The Snyder Daily News By February 12, 1999. You Can Pick Your Photos Up After Valentine's Day

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Little Cypress to begin random drug tests

LITTLE CYPRESS (AP) — Cheerleaders, athletes and other students involved in after school activities at a southeast Texas school district will have to submit to random drug tests starting next month.

A sweeping drug testing program begins Feb. 8 at middle school and high schools in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville School District.

Most students aren't too thrilled about the prospect of being tested, and an American Civil Liberties Union spokesman said he may challenge the plan.

But Little Cypress-Mauriceville Superintendent Lamar Hebert said he has received little opposition from parents so far.

"I'm not foolish enough to think everyone is going to agree with this. Not in this country," Hebert told the Beaumont Enterprise. "But on the same token, drugs are unacceptable in this district. They are harmful to students and against the law."

Students involved in any extracurricular activity, such as athletics, drama and debate, will fall under the new program, as will anyone who takes driver's education classes. Students who drive will have to comply with random testing to get a parking permit on campus. Parents also may request testing for their children.

At Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School, about 20 miles northeast of Beaumont, 17-year-old Joel Nash said he resents the policy.

He added that he is considering opposing the new drug tests.

Hebert said the policy has passed close legal inspection and is similar to those that have passed scrutiny in the courts elsewhere.

Students who fail a drug test the first time will be suspended from extracurricular activities for a semester, banned from the parking lot and forced to seek drug counseling at their own expense.

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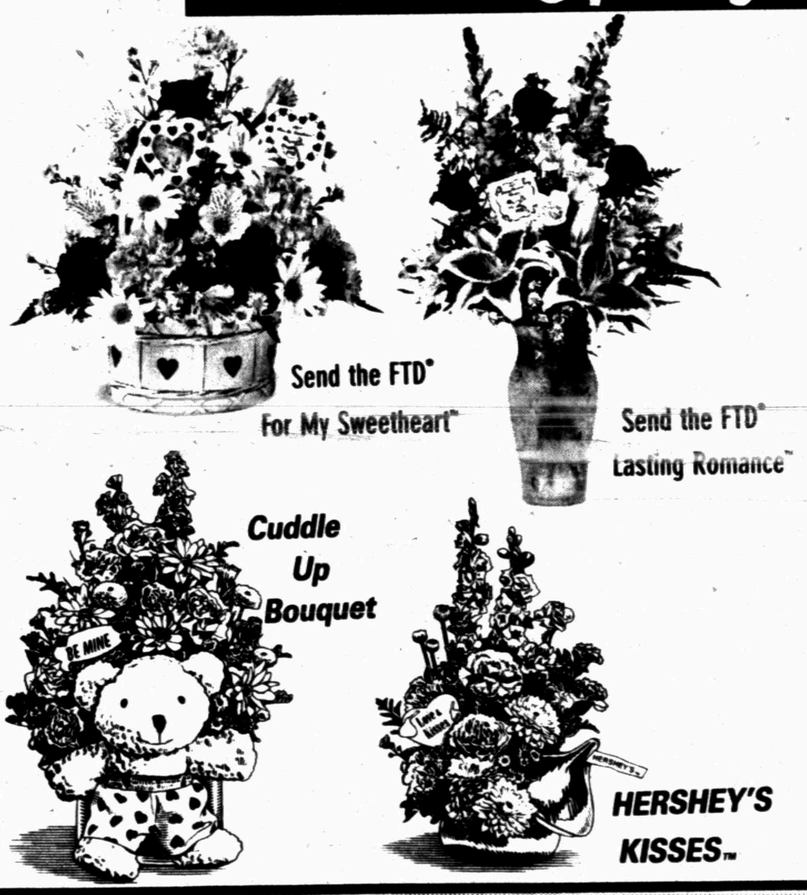

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Phone
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Imagine how delighted your special Valentine will be when she receives fresh cut flowers this Valentine's Day. At Friendly Flower Shop, you'll find just the right bouquet for that special someone in your life.

The "Hershey's Kisses" bouquet by Teleflora features an oversized replica of a Hershey's Kiss chocolate combined with fresh flowers and the "Cuddle Up" bouquet consists of fresh flowers accompanied by a snuggly soft bear. FTD features the elegant "Lasting Romance" bouquet and the "For My Sweetheart" bouquet which includes a magnet picture frame to preserve a special moment.

Roses are always a favorite at Valuentines, so check with Friendly Flowers about their "Valentine Special".

Balloon Bouquets, candy and stuffed animals are also available and REMEMBER... Valentine's Day is on Sunday this year, so order early.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

THE SNYDER DAILY NEWS

High court reinstates fed rules

Designed to open local phone service to competition

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today reinstated federal rules aimed at quickly opening the $110 billion local telephone market to competition.

The court, in splintered voting, said a 1996 law lets the Federal Communications Commission set pricing rules for long-distance companies and others that want to start offering local phone service.

The ruling is a big, although not complete, victory for the government's goal of speedily letting customers nationwide choose their local phone company much as they now can choose a long-distance company.

Writing for the court, Justice Antonin Scalia said the Federal Communications Commission has general jurisdiction to implement the local-competition provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

"It would be gross understatement to say that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 is not a model of clarity," Scalia wrote. "It is in many important respects a model of ambiguity or indeed even self-contradiction. ...

"But Congress is well aware that the ambiguities it chooses to produce in a statute will be resolved by the implementing agency. ... We can only enforce the clear limits that the 1996 act contains," Scalia added.

The Clinton administration had argued that such competition will happen sooner if price rules are set by the federal government rather than by each of the 50 states.

State regulators and companies that now monopolize local phone service had said the pricing rules must be set by the states.

Although they lost today, state regulators and local phone companies still can return to a lower court and challenge the substance of the federal rules.

Four of the eight court members wrote opinions in the case. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who long has owned AT&T stock, did not participate in the decision.

The court also upheld most of the FCC's rules aimed at prohibiting local phone companies from separating parts of their network and then requiring a customer who leases those parts to pay the cost of reassembling them. The commission contends that such "unbundling" imposes unneeded costs on a competitor.

The justices said the FCC "did not adequately consider" all factors when it passed a rule requiring a local phone company to provide competitors with access to various local network elements. The court concluded that the commission's Rule 319 is inconsistent with the 1996 law.

The court also ruled that the commission can impose a "pick and choose" rule on local phone companies.

Census cannot be adjusted for expected undercount

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 2000 census cannot be adjusted through statistical methods to make up for an expected undercount of minorities, the Supreme Court said today. The ruling means the head count will be conducted the traditional way.

The federal census law bars use of statistical methods intended to make the national population count more nearly accurate for deciding how many members of the House of Representatives each state gets, the justices said. The 5-4 ruling could have a major effect on money and votes nationwide.

Republicans had fought the Clinton administration's sampling plan as a threat to their control of Congress.

The law "directly prohibits the use of sampling in the determination of population for purposes of apportionment," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote for the court.

When the census law was amended in 1976, "At no point ... did a single member of Congress suggest that the amendments would so fundamentally change the manner in which the (Census) Bureau could calculate the population for purposes of apportionment," O'Connor wrote.

O'Connor said "it tests the limits of reason" to suggest that Congress would have been silent in enacting "what would arguably be the single most significant change in the method of conducting the decennial census since its inception."

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said, "The Supreme Court today reaffirmed a basic constitutional principle. The census must not be a poll and everyone must be counted."

Adjusting the census likely would have helped Democrats because minorities and inner-city residents, who tend to vote Democratic, made up a large share of the estimated 4 million people missed by the 1990 count.

Republicans oppose adjusting the numbers to make up for that undercount because people who tend to vote Republican also are more likely to voluntarily respond to the census.

In other action, the court:

—Reinstated federal rules aimed at quickly opening the $110 billion local telephone market to competition.

—Killed a lawsuit by five retired employees of Hughes Aircraft Co. over what they say was a $1.2 billion surplus in the company's contributory pension plan. That could affect 33 million workers and retirees who participate in defined-benefit pension plans.

New plan cancels social promotion in Texas schools

DEL VALLE (AP) — Gov. George W. Bush and two leading lawmakers chose an elementary school as the stage to launch their plan of attack against social promotion, the term for advancing students from grade to grade when they can't do the work.

Bush, Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, and Rep. Paul Sadler, D-Henderson, planned to visit Hillcrest Elementary School today to draw attention to the bill.

The bill would set a standard of requiring students to pass the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills in third, fifth and eighth grades to be promoted. Students would be given three tries at the test, coupled with remedial courses.

Exceptions to the passing standard, however, would be allowed.

The bill would set up an appeals process that would allow a student to be promoted despite failing the TAAS three times if the parent, teacher and principal agreed.

An appeal might, for example, take into account whether a student's test scores kept rising and were just short of passing on the third try, said Bivins, the Senate Education Committee chairman.

Bush — whose battle against social promotion was a major campaign promise — was asked a year ago whether there would be any way under his plan that a student would be promoted to fourth grade without passing the third-grade TAAS reading test

"No there's not," he said then, adding, "The student will immediately go into remedial help."

Asked recently about the proposal discussed by Bivins, Bush said he supported allowing schools to determine if there are mitigating circumstances. His office has worked with educators and lawmakers on details of the plan.

"The key is, are we putting in place something that helps students learn to read?" he said.

Besides requiring third-graders to pass the reading test, the bill would require fifth-graders to pass the reading and math portions of the TAAS to advance. Eighth-graders would have to pass reading, writing and math.

State law already says students may be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency. But there's no state standard to ensure students aren't passed without demonstrating knowledge.

The Texas Federation of Teachers estimated in 1996 that 150,000 Texas students are promoted every year without passing their courses.

Inspires songwriter

ROCHESTER, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota cheered and jeered him when he was "The Body" and voted for him when he became "The Mind."

Now, meet Jesse "The Muse" Ventura.

The flamboyant former professional wrestler has inspired a Rochester psychologist to write several songs lauding the state's flashy governor.

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WRIGHT COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

200 East 37th Street
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915-573-6200

Auction nets sellers $52,415

Sellers netted $52,415 at an auction Saturday following the awards presentation at the annual Scurry County Junior Livestock Show and Sale.

At the awards presentation, Celeigh Sterling of Ira FFA was given the Top Hand Award.

Tommy Gordon of Snyder FFA was the top seller of a gift certificate from Bar H Bar Family Outfitters. He was awarded a leather garment bag.

Winner of the gift certificate was Charlie Stone.

The Caprock Scholarship went to Brandon Williamson of Snyder FFA.

Obituaries

Mrs. Thompson

1930-1999

Service is set for 2 p.m. Tuesday at Wright Colonial Funeral Home for Evelyn Laverne "Doodle" Thompson, lifetime resident of Snyder. Jimmy Browning and Dr. Marty Akins, pastor of First Baptist Church, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Mrs. Thompson, 68, died Saturday, Jan. 23, in Abilene's Hendrick Medical Center.

Born on March 2, 1930 in Snyder, Mrs. Thompson married H.L. Thompson on June 17, 1946 in Snyder. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include her husband, H.L. Thompson of Snyder; a son, Larry Thompson of Snyder; a daughter, Brenda Thompson of Sweetwater; a brother, Weldon Perry of Snyder; and two granddaughters, Jacki Thompson and Temi Thompson, both of Snyder.

Robert V. Cuppet

1948-1999

GRANBURY — Robert Verlon Cuppet, son of Bob and Ann Cuppet of Snyder, died Jan. 15 in Harris Methodist HEB in Bedford.

A former Snyder resident, a graveside service for Mr. Cuppet, 50, was held Jan. 18 in the Tolar Cemetery in Hood County. Alan Thomas officiated.

Mr. Cuppet had lived in Hurst for five years and was a geologist for an oil company.

Other survivors include his wife, Vicki Cuppet of Hurst; two sons, Aaron Cuppet and Brian Cuppet, both of Hurst; a stepson, Shawn Cheairs of Abilene; a stepdaughter, Shelley Cheairs of Abilene; a sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn and Alan Thomas of Ranger; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Charlie Cain

1910-1999

Charlie Cain, longtime Scurry County resident, died this morning at his home east of Snyder.

Funeral service for Mr. Cain, 88, is set for 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Lighthouse Assembly of God Church. The Rev. Danny Williams, pastor, will officiate. Burial will follow in Hillside Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements are under the direction of Bell-Cypert-Seale Funeral Home.

Born March 9, 1910 in Cleburne, he married Clara Alma Ross on Nov. 20, 1931 in Marietta, Okla. Living in Snyder since 1950, Mr. Cain was a retired welder. He was a member of the Lighthouse Assembly of God Church.

He was preceded in death by two sons, Joseph Wayne Cain on Jan. 3, 1997, and by William Earl Cain on Feb. 24, 1997.

Survivors include his wife, Clara Cain of the home; a daughter and son-in-law, Virginia and Jimmy Smith of Flower Mound; a son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Ramona Cain of Snyder; another daughter-in-law, Phyllis Cain of Irving; 14 grandchildren, including Lynda McCormack of Snyder; 16 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Personal, Professional Service

BELL CYPERT-SEALE FUNERAL HOME

3101 College Ave. 573-5454

events

WHAT'S UP?

ONGOINGS

Aerobic kick-boxing

WTC will be teaching the newest moves in aerobic kick-boxing in a class beginning today at the WTC gym. The coed class hours are 6-7:15 p.m. Beginning and advanced levels will be taught. Call 573-8511 for more information.

Weigh-down workshop

The workshop will begin today at 5:30 p.m. at the 37th Street Church of Christ Family Center. This is the last chance to register for this session. Call 573-9688 for more information.

Scholastic book fair

Snyder Head Start will have a scholastic book fair from 8 a.m. until noon and from 1-6 p.m. daily through Friday. For more information call 573-7403 or 573-1784.

Bible study tapes

Bible study video tapes air weekly on cable TV channel 2. The tapes to be shown at 7 tonight are "Jesus Through the Eyes of James," followed by "Where Have All the Fathers Gone."

Cancer Society meeting

The Scurry Unit of the American Cancer Soceity will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the board room at Cogdell Hospital.

Genealogical Society

The Scurry County Genealogical Society will meet 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Scurry County Library. Joe Thrower will show pictures taken in Hermleigh between 1900 and 1915. Everyone is invited.

WTC aqua-aerobics

Aqua-aerobics will begin Tuesday at WTC's pool and classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday from 5:15 until 6:45 p.m. Aqua-aerobics is designed for people of all ages. Call 573-8511 for more information.

Retirement reception

A retirement reception for Shirley Head who is retiring from the Justice of the Peace office will be held in the commissioners courtroom from 2-3 p.m. on Wednesday.

East Elementary parent council

The East Elementary parent council will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. immediately after the family reading night. That program begins at 6 p.m.

Ira Bulldog annual

Ira's 1999 Bulldog annuals are on sale until Tuesday, the last time they will be offered this school year. The cost is $26 with name on cover or $22 without. Contact Becky Hudgins at the school. Only a few are left.

Ira spring casual pictures

On Wednesday, spring portraits and friendship pictures will be taken at Ira School. Each person will be photographed and each class will be photographed as a group. Friendship pictures will be taken, with a limit of six people per picture, at a cost of $2 per person, sitting fee. Families may also set up a time with the school to be photographed.

Library storytime change

Beginning this month, Storytime for 4-5-year-olds at the Scurry County Library will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays.

Diabetes support group

The local diabetes support group will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Cogdell Memorial Hospital cafeteria. Please enter at the front door of the hospital, not through the emergency room.

Library reading day

WTC's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, plus local senior citizens, will be presenting a reading day at the library on Friday from 10 a.m. until noon. All kids and parents are invited and anyone who signs up for a library card during this time will be eligible for a special drawing.

LL coaches needed

Anyone interested in managing a Little League, minor league (farm league) or an 8 & 9 year-old-team this summer should contact Sid Wall at 574-6818, or go by Caprock Security at 2517 College Ave. by Friday.

UW recognition luncheon

The annual United Way recognition luncheon for volunteers will be held at noon next Monday at The Shack.

Buckeye donkey basketball

Ira schools will host Buckeye donkey basketball at 7 p.m. next Monday at the Ira gym. For advance tickets, call the Ira school office at 573-2628.

Pick 3

AUSTIN (AP) — The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Saturday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
4-8-4

Lotto Texas

By The Associated Press

No tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.
A winning ticket would have been worth an estimated $23 million.
The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were 21, 26, 27, 31, 32 and 39.
Matching five of six: 136. Prize: $1,783.
Matching four of six: 8,531. Prize: $102.
Matching three of six: 148,442. Prize: $3.
Next Lotto Texas game: Wednesday night.
Estimated jackpot: $29 million.